



## TEACH IT COLLEGE AGE SESSION 4

### 1. Materials

For this session each student will need—

- the Session 4 Scripture sheet
- the student journal page for Session 4
- his or her own Bible, a pen, and a notebook

You'll also need—

- a whiteboard and markers
- a pack of colored pencils (at least two colors per student)

**EXERCISE HEADS-UP:** Session 5 Teach It guides contain a closing option of taking communion as a group, which will take some extra prep. You may want to look at that option now.

### 2. Session Intro

#### GOALS OF SESSION 4

As students experience this session, they will—

- examine the details of a dialogue between Jesus and a Samaritan woman.
- discover the kind of worshiper for whom God is looking.
- be challenged to become that kind of worshiper.

#### PRAYER

Help your group members prepare their hearts by asking a volunteer to read aloud the verses from Habakkuk below. Share that it's easy to let things we can see (the physical) rather than what we can't see (the spiritual) shape our worship. Ask the Lord to open their spiritual eyes to the worship he desires through this study in John 4.

**“Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.” (Habakkuk 2:19-20)**

#### OPEN

*Distractions*

Before you dive in, ask a few questions about distractions.

**What are some things that can distract you when you're trying to—**

- **study?**
- **drive?**
- **do menial computer work like data entry?**

Then ask the question below, and let the group brainstorm 10 to 12 ideas. List these on one side of the whiteboard—then don't erase it. You'll refer to this list later in the session.

## What are some things that can distract you when you're trying to worship?

- hunger
- a busy schedule
- the temperature of the room
- daydreaming
- friends talking
- mistakes in the church bulletin or worship folder


Transition into the study with a statement like this:

**Our physical surroundings have a way of crowding out our spiritual needs. That's why it's so easy to get distracted when we worship.**

### 3. Digging In

*Testing the Waters*

Tell the group—

**Read John 4:1-15 using your Scripture sheets. As you read, mark every mention of water with an ocean wave . It will help if you use two colors—one to mark physical water (the woman's type of water) and another for spiritual water (Jesus' water).**

When most students have finished, discuss what the group learned about Jesus' water. Record their insights beside the distractions you've already listed on the whiteboard. Your list will look something like this:

#### Jesus' Water

- Jesus gives it (v. 10).
- It's living (v. 10).
- If you drink it, you'll never thirst again (v. 14).
- It will become a spring that wells up into eternal life (v. 14).

After you've listed these main points, ask—

#### **To what extent did the woman understand Jesus' living water?**

*After some discussion, draw their attention to verse 15. The woman understood what physical water was, and she wanted some because she was tired of bringing her bucket to the well. But she didn't quite get the idea of "living" water.*


#### **Remember our brainstorming session at the beginning? How does what we listed earlier relate to this conversation between Jesus and the woman?**

*Point out the list of things they said distracted them from worship written on the whiteboard. Guide them to the idea that we can get so caught up in physical things that we miss the spiritual gift Jesus wants to give us.*

### 4. Digging Deeper

*This Just In*

Ask students to read John 4:15-29 using their Scripture sheets, and as they read have them—

**Draw a cross  over every word for Jesus, including words such as you, him, he, and I.**

Then ask students to look at what they marked and try to view Jesus from the woman's perspective.

2

**What title did the woman use in addressing Jesus? Do you see any significance with this?**  
“Sir.” She apparently held him in high regard.

**How would you describe the progression of the woman’s view of Jesus as the conversation went along?**

1. He’s a Jew.
2. He’s a Jew with magic water; she can quit coming to the well.
3. He’s a prophet, and he may have some answers for her.
4. He may be the Messiah!

**What did Jesus teach the woman (and us!) about worship? (Ask students to write this information on their journal pages.)**

- True worshipers worship the Father in spirit and truth (v. 23).
- The Father seeks this kind of worshiper (v. 23).
- God is spirit; his worshipers must worship him in spirit and truth (v. 24).

Ask students to respond to the questions on their journal pages under Digging Deeper. After a couple of minutes, ask them to discuss their responses as a group, using these questions as prompts:

**How did you describe the difference between the woman’s mindset and the realm Jesus was talking about?**

**In what ways are you like this woman? What are some ways physical things distract you from spiritual things?**

**How would you describe Jesus explaining this same truth to a barista working at a Starbucks?**

## 5. Cross-Checking

*The Perfect Metaphor*

Explain that John 4 isn’t the only place where God’s Word uses water as a picture of salvation. Have students read the Cross-Checking passages from their Bibles. As they read, ask them to jot down everything they learn about salvation and spiritual water in the space provided on their journal pages. They may want to do this exercise as a personal retreat with God.

### WORSHIP OPTION:

Copy these verses into presentation software, add some music, and make this exercise a worship experience.

	<b>What do you learn about salvation and spiritual water?</b>
Isaiah 12:1-3	<i>When God becomes our salvation, we draw water with joy from the wells of salvation.</i>
Isaiah 49:8-10	<i>We don’t have to thirst; God has compassion on us and guides us beside springs of water.</i>
John 7:37-39	<i>Whoever believes in Jesus will have streams of living water flowing from within. Jesus was referring to the Spirit, whom believers would receive.</i>
Revelation 21:5-6, 22:17	<i>Jesus will give—free of cost!—the water of life to anyone who is thirsty. We only have to come to him to receive it.</i>

## 6. Taking It Inward

### *The Truth of Worship*

After most of your students have finished, call the group back together. Help them process their experience in Scripture by asking these questions:

**Look back at John 4:23. What kind of people is God seeking?**

*He is seeking those who worship him in spirit and truth.*

**When you come to church for worship, what things are usually on your mind?**

**The opposite of worshipping *in spirit* is worshipping *in the physical realm*. Which do you think our church does more—worship in the physical realm or the spiritual realm? Why?**

**If God desires people who worship him in spirit and in truth, why do you think many churches experience “dry” worship?**

*When people are worshipping in the physical realm, they’re on a road that will never intersect with what God wants. They need living water to cure their dry worship!*

**Speaking of truth, what was the ultimate truth Jesus conveyed to the Samaritan woman? (Hint: See John 4:25-26.)**

*He is the Messiah.*

**How does this revelation relate to what Jesus taught the woman about worship?**

*Point out to your students that to “worship in truth” means to worship in authenticity and sincerity. But true worship must also entail recognizing Jesus as the Messiah—anything less than that isn’t authentic worship and may simply be a form of “playing church.”*

**At the time Jesus said these words about worship to the woman, the world hadn’t yet seen different church denominations and worship styles. How have these differences impacted worshipping in spirit and truth? In what ways have these differences been a distraction to the kind of worshiper God is seeking?**

## 7. Wrapping It Up

### *Jesus-Style Worship*

After you read each question below, have the students write responses on their journal pages that will remind them of what God said to them during this session.

**Jesus said if we believe in him, streams of living water will flow from our innermost beings. What changes do you need to make so your spiritual life can be described this way?**

**How can you change your worship habits so that you worship God in the way he’s seeking—in spirit and in truth?**

**Jesus wasn’t just referring to Sunday-morning worship, but to a lifestyle of worship. What can you change in order to worship *daily* in spirit and in truth?**

Ask any volunteers to share their insights. Discuss setting a time when the group can practice worshipping in spirit and in truth. It doesn’t have to be elaborate (with a band, lighting, etc.). In fact, it’s better to keep it simple and free of distractions. Maybe you could gather at a nearby park, or you could meet in the basement or great room of a student’s home. Commit to making it a time of distraction-free, sincere worship.