



# Sermon Growth Guide

**September 12, 2021**

**Belong - Open to Others**

**John 4:27-42**

**Key Verse:** John 4:29-30 “Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah? They came out of town and made their way toward Him.”

**Big Idea:** Belonging can only happen when we are open to others.

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## Foundations

As we continue the story of the woman whom Jesus meets at Jacob’s well, we see a progression in her understanding. At first she sees Jesus as a Jewish man and therefore not someone to talk to a woman of Samaria. Then she sees that Jesus takes her seriously, so she becomes more committed to speaking with Him. Eventually she sees Him as a prophet because He knows everything about her.

But we also witness a progression in her sense of belonging. She journeys from being an outsider to sensing that Jesus is “safe” and that she can talk to Him. Then as she drinks of the Living Water that Jesus offers, she runs to all those neighbors she had so carefully avoided. She is not afraid to talk about her past as she tells the townspeople who she has met and what has happened.

She is able to move toward others because Jesus has moved toward her and included her among those who would follow Him. As Pastor Tim said in his sermon, her story is no longer a failed marriages story. It isn’t a shame story. It is a Jesus story.

When she shared her new story, a new community was formed. The villagers were intrigued by what she had to say and invited Jesus into their midst. Think about this: In what ways does this story illustrate the saying that “our faith is personal but it is not private”?

## Understanding God’s Word

In John 4:26-30 we see a model of how one can have spiritual conversations with others. It is not formulaic. It is relational. When this woman runs in to town her words are enthusiastic, experiential, engaging, it’s all about Jesus. And, it is brief. Dale Bruner, in his commentary on John, summarizes her “sermon” as honest, real and Christ-centered. Because of her testimony, many in the village became followers of Jesus.

That was a “great harvest.” As you read verses 34-38, what encouragement do you receive as you face the challenge of having spiritual conversations with friends and neighbors?

## Applying God’s Word

When we drink of the Living Water, we are transformed in a way that motivates us to reach out to others with the good news about Jesus. Bruner writes: “Having tasted the Well of Living Water herself, she has been transformed into a Fountain of Flowing Water.” How do you think the manner in which we share Jesus with others creates relationships and belonging?

## Witnessing God’s Word

This woman left her jar and went running to tell others about Jesus. What do you think this means? What things do you have to leave behind to tell others about Jesus?

**ALONE IS NO GOOD. JESUS INVITES YOU TO BELONG.**