

A rustic stone water fountain with a metal spout pouring water into a stone basin. The fountain is made of dark, weathered stone and has a large, rounded metal spout that is slightly rusted. Water is flowing from the spout into a shallow, wide stone basin. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural setting. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

Never Thirst Again

Journey To The Well

Sandra Bivens Smith

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Dedication

So many people made this Bible Study possible.

Thank you Mikki, Amy Jo and Gilda for encouraging and supporting me every step of the way.

Thank you Mother for teaching me by your example, what it means to be a strong, completed woman. You are so precious to me.¹

Thank you Trent for the hours you spent proofing and editing.

Thank you to all the women I have met along my sixty-one year journey whose joys and sorrows alike inspired this study.

Most of all, thank you Avon. Without your tireless patience, unselfish sacrifice, never wavering confidence in me and your love, I would never have “kept the faith” to finish.

¹ Sadly, Mother went home to be with the Lord before this study went to print. However, her teaching and influence will remain with me all my days.

In Loving Memory of my Father and Mother

George Flay Bivens
April 28, 1929 - February 11, 2006

Margaret Lingerfelt Bivens
May 21, 1931 – September 30, 2010

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Preface

Dear Hearts,

When God laid on my heart to pen this study, my vision was for a study that would speak personally and intimately to the women who would one day pick it up and go through its pages. It is my hope that this study will create a desire for more.

A desire for more of Jesus. It is my prayer that as you spend time in His presence you will discover the depth of His love and come to know more of His joy, more of His peace, more of His grace, and more of His forgiveness.

A desire for more of God's word. The bible has been called God's love letter to His children. As we come to understand that every word of every verse is given by the Father out of His love for us, God's word becomes very personal.

A desire for more faith. As you learn more about who Jesus is, as you discover more about the promises God has given, as you learn that you can trust Him, I am confident your words will echo those of the father in the gospel of Mark who cried out "I believe, help my unbelief"!

I have tried to bring you a study that is rich in substance, one that will help you grow on your journey with the Lord.

May God richly bless the time you spend in your communion with Him and may His Spirit direct you in the study of His word.

About the Study

“Never Thirst Again” is a nine-week study. The anchor for our study is found in John 4:4-42, which recounts the event of the Samaritan woman’s meeting with Jesus at the well. You are encouraged to read these verses as often as you have opportunity.

Most of the daily lessons can be completed in about twenty minutes. Each lesson begins with an introduction which will set the theme for the day’s study.

There are some disciplines I have found over the years that can maximize the benefits of your study time.

- Set aside a regular quiet time for your study. By committing time each day, you will be less likely to allow other things to distract you. The amount of time you spend is not nearly as important as being consistent.
- Begin each day’s time with prayer. Without the leading of the Holy Spirit, we cannot fully discern all that God’s word has to teach us.
- End your time with prayer. You have studied God’s word, now pray His word. Each day’s lesson concludes with a verse that can be used in your prayer time. As you pray, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and guide you.

It is my sincere prayer that through your time in this study, you will be ministered to in a powerful way. May the Lord fill you with His Spirit daily as you spend time with Him and His Word.

I thank you all for allowing me to bring this study to you.

Introduction

The story of the woman at the well has always struck me with its significance. When I read her story, I can see, in some way, the life of too many of the women I know. I have seen so many women living unfulfilled or even self-destructive life styles, out of a thirst for acceptance, respect and love. Sadly, many women seek their “completion” in harmful ways; they end up in situations that leave them physically or emotionally damaged.

God’s intent from the beginning was for the man to love, care for and protect the woman. (1Peter 3:7 “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered”). Sin entered, God’s laws were broken and a curse was pronounced (See Genesis 3:16). Consequently, when the love and care a woman so desperately hungers for is missing, she feels empty; discontentment sets in and the search for fulfillment begins. It troubles to me to realize how the need that God has put within us for our good has been distorted and exploited by the enemy.

For generations women have been lied to. In the decades preceding the sixties, women generally measured their value through the eyes of the men they loved, the accomplishments of their children, and their skills as homemakers. Then, in the 1960’s and early 1970’s, women were told and sold on the belief that they were victims. They were convinced that they were being treated as second class citizens and that if they wanted to succeed, to have any value, to be as good as men, they better start acting like men. The battle cry rang out from the feminist to take up arms, go out into the world, and "fight for food." Too many women heeded that call so sadly, the lie continues and the family suffers.

All this is not said as a judgment against the women who value the role of caring for their families, nor is it a judgment against women who work hard to build a career outside the home. On the contrary, these roles are God honoring and rewarding. The Proverbs 31 woman gives evidence of this calling upon the lives of women. What we as women must come to understand, is that our value is not determined by the titles we wear. Our worth is based not on what we are in the world but solely on who we are in Jesus Christ. If you don’t know who you are, or if you need a reminder, I encourage you to spend some time reading the first and second chapters of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. In this wonderful letter, Paul describes for us our heritage and our hope.

As you begin this study, I pray that you will take the first steps of the journey with anticipation and the expectation of growing as a woman of God. I pray that along the way, you come to fully

know who you are in Jesus. I pray that at the end of the journey you will have discovered that all your needs are met in Jesus.

In His Love

Sandra



Part 1

The Purpose,
The Plan and
The Provision

Lesson 1

The Purpose

The nameless woman who met Jesus at the well may have lived in a different world and time but her disappointments were no different from our own. Certainly as a young girl she didn't anticipate having five husbands. Surely she didn't expect that some day she would have to make covert trips to the well to avoid the whispers of the women in the village. "*That Woman!*" they would have called her. They would have taunted her with their shouts - "*Sinner!*" "*Adulteress!*" "*Harlot!*"! Once a woman full of dreams, she is cast by hard circumstances and wrong choices into a life of shame.

The Samaritan woman came to the well that noon for the purpose of getting a jug of water, but God, as you will discover, had a different purpose in mind.

Just as God had a purpose for the Samaritan woman, He has a purpose, a design for each of our lives. In this week's study, we will look at how we can know God's purpose for us and what we can do to fulfill His purpose.



Day 1

Proverbs 16:9 says *“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.”* It can be so hard to trust God with our future. We’re not comfortable letting someone else make decisions for us because we like to feel we’re in control. As one author wrote, we want to be the masters of our own destiny. If you find yourself thinking that way, you need to know ...we are not masters of our destiny, God is! That should be wonderful news. We should find great comfort in the knowledge that the God of the universe, the One Who never sleeps or slumbers, the One Who never fails, has established our steps from the beginning.

-
1. Read John 4: 4-8. List facts in these verses which reveal that the meeting between Jesus and the woman was not a coincidence but rather God’s providence.



The most direct route from Judea to Galilee was through the country of Samaria. Religious differences had created hatred between the Samaritans and Jews and the Jews routinely avoided traveling through Samaria.



2. Why did Jesus have to go through Samaria?

3. Can you remember a time when events in your life didn’t seem to make sense? Describe.

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. (Job 42:2)



Day 2

I am a child of the 60's, the generation which set out to "find ourselves." There are books aplenty to tell us how to find our purpose. Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life has been translated into 59 languages and is reported to have sold more than 30 million copies. The writer of a blog I came across recently promises that by following his prescribed method, you can discover your life's purpose in fifteen to twenty minutes. Through the ages, man has struggled with the question "what am I here for"?

1. Read John 4:34-38. What does Jesus say is His food?

2. According to John 6:39-40, what was Jesus' specific purpose for coming down from heaven?

3. Read Exodus 9:16. What does this verse tell us is God's ultimate purpose for His followers?



Merriam Webster defines purpose as *something set up as an object or end to be attained; an intention, resolution or determination*. It seems to me that most folks define purpose more as how they are going to spend their time rather than an "end to be attained."



Day 3

We all have memories from our past. For many of us, they are mostly happy memories. For others, they are memories filled with pain.

1. Genesis chapters 37-45 give the account of Joseph's life from a teenaged shepherd boy to the second highest position of authority in Egypt. Read Genesis 37:12-30. As you read, list the trials that Joseph encountered and tell how God intervened in each situation.

Joseph's Trials

God's Intervention

2. Read Genesis 50:20. Why do you think God sometimes allows trials in the lives of His children?

3. What experience in your life has been the most difficult for you to overcome?

4. Read Romans 8:28. What are some ways you think that God can use your past experiences to fulfill His purpose for you.



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)



You have turned my sorrow into joyful dancing. No longer am I sad and wearing sackcloth. (Psalms 30:11 CEV)



Day 4

When God calls you to move, do you often find that you immediately begin to look for excuses? Alternatively, maybe you tend to take the Scarlett O’Hara “I’ll worry about that tomorrow” approach. Why is that? Could it be fear? Do you fear commitment, responsibility, inadequacy, failure?

-
1. Read Judges 6:11-16. What is the reason Gideon was in the winepress, rather than on the threshing floor?
 2. What would be a reason the Angel of the Lord called Gideon a mighty man of valor, when Gideon refers to himself as the least of the least?

