

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

*If you are not familiar with the story of the woman at the well, you would benefit from reading John 4: 1 - 26 before the session.*

## Welcome

Share stories about a time you met a stranger from a different culture - if possible, funny ones!

## Worship

*Have a central lit candle and an unlit tea light ready for each person.*

Read John 4: 21 - 26

- Discuss what might it mean to worship a) 'in Spirit' and b) 'in truth'?
- How do you respond to the idea that the Father is **seeking** this kind of worshipper?
- How do you respond to the idea that the Father is seeking **you**?
- In a time of silence, or while some music is played, let everyone light their tea light from the candle and then place it near the central candle.

## Word

**Read John 4:27.**

- Explore the reasons for the disciples' surprise; try to find at least two.
- Are there 'no-go-people' for respectable Christians today?

**Read John 4: 28 - 30.**

- Compare the woman's behaviour with that of the male disciples described in Luke 5: 9 -11.

**Read John 4: 31 - 34.**

- The (male) disciples express concern for Jesus' physical welfare. Why do they misunderstand his reply in verse 32? Is it reasonable to laugh at their words in verse 33?
- What does Jesus mean by saying 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work'? What is it about **food** that expresses his view of his divine **work**?

### **Read John 4:35 - 38.**

- Jesus develops a metaphor comparing work for God with reaping a harvest. Explain what Jesus is saying in ordinary language - ie, without a metaphor.

### **Read John 4:39 - 42.**

- What makes this woman a model disciple?
- The woman had had five husbands and was now with man number six. Speculate as to why she might have lived her life in this way.
- Who knows the real reasons for her behaviour?
- Some may have looked down on her and used abusive words to describe her. How does Jesus see her?

### Response

*The woman went through six men in her search for whatever she was looking for. Eventually she was found by 'the seventh man', one who actually understood her better than she understood herself. He called her on the noble path of spiritual growth and gave her the dignity of acting as a disciple. She suggests to the townsfolk that Jesus could be the Messiah (verse 29) and enables them to accept him as their own Saviour (verse 42.)*

- Ponder who or what are your equivalents of 'the six men'; people or things that failed to provide what you were looking for.
- Write down some words that describe what Jesus, the Seventh Man, gives, that no one else can.