



Week 4: Never Settle For Empty Wells

Mark Clark // August 9, 2026

Everyone is thirsty for something. We chase success, relationships, comfort, approval, security, or achievement, hoping that the next thing will finally satisfy us. Yet even after we get what we wanted, the thirst somehow returns. Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman reminds us that our deepest longing isn't for something—it's for Someone. This week, we're invited to stop settling for wells that never satisfy and discover the living water only Jesus can give.

Scripture: [John 4:4-26 NIV](#)

Bottom Line: Never settle for empty wells when Jesus offers living water.

Digging In:

1. Have you ever pursued something you thought would satisfy you, only to realize it didn't? What did you learn?
2. Read John 4:4-26 together. Jesus intentionally travels through Samaria to meet one woman. Also, Jesus knows everything about her background, yet he still pursues her. What does this teach us about grace and God's heart for individuals?
3. Why do you suppose Jesus addresses the underlying reality of the woman's past instead of simply giving her what she asks for? How is this an example for us?
4. Mark talks about the idea of "divine interruptions." Have you experienced a moment where God unexpectedly used an interruption to teach you something or reach someone through you? How could you become more attentive to these moments?
5. Jesus says, "Whoever drinks the [living] water I give them will never thirst." What do you think this promise does—and doesn't—mean for everyday life?
6. The woman comes to the well expecting ordinary water but leaves having encountered Jesus. How has Jesus surprised you by meeting a deeper need than the one you originally brought to him?
7. Mark describes our "wells" as the places we look for identity, satisfaction, or purpose apart from God. What are some modern-day wells people drink from? What well are you most tempted to return to when you're tired, discouraged, or searching for fulfillment?
8. What are some signs that you're drinking from the "living water" Jesus offers instead of one of the world's wells? What would be different about your attitudes, priorities, or relationships?

9. Jesus says true worshippers worship “in spirit and truth.” What do you think this looks like in everyday life?
10. Mark quotes John Piper with the idea that “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” What does this mean? How have you experienced this to be true—or where do you struggle to believe it?
11. Is there a person in your life who, like the Samaritan woman, might need someone to see them with grace instead of judgment? How could you intentionally move toward that person this week?

Moving Forward:

As this series comes to a close, take a few moments this week to ask yourself: *Where am I still settling?* Notice the places where you’re looking for satisfaction apart from Jesus—whether that’s approval, comfort, success, control or something else. Then intentionally return to him each day in prayer and Scripture, trusting that he alone can satisfy the deepest thirst of your soul. Don’t just remember this series—live it!

Prayer Prompt:

Invite everyone to take a quiet moment and reflect on this question:

What “well” am I most tempted to keep returning to instead of Jesus?

After a few moments, invite people to share one word (if they’re comfortable) that describes what they want Jesus to replace that “well” with—for example: peace, trust, freedom, joy, hope, contentment, courage. Then close by praying:

Jesus, thank you that you meet us right where we are—with all our questions, failures, and thirst. Help us stop looking to things that can never truly satisfy. Fill us with your living water, teach us to trust you more each day, and help us to find our deepest joy and contentment in you. Amen.