

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Themes in the Gospel of John. Today's topic: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SAMARITANS.

1) Who were the Samaritans?

- a. What event occurred in 722 BC in the northern kingdom of Israel?
- b. How did the Assyrians create the diverse group of people known as the Samaritans?
- c. What were some reasons for the strained relationships between the Jews and the Samaritans?

2) Ministry to a Samaritan woman

- a. John 4:1-4 Why did Jesus leave Judea and why did He “need to go through Samaria” when most Jews avoided that region?
- b. What divine appointment occurred at Jacob’s well? John 4:5-8
- c. Why did the request of Jesus surprise this Samaritan woman? John 4:9
- d. What can we learn about this Samaritan woman from her interaction with Jesus? John 4:11-15
- e. Where else in John’s Gospel does Jesus speak about living water? (John 7:37-38)
- f. How can we receive this living water?
- g. John 4:16-18 Why did Jesus abruptly change the subject and focus on the personal life of this Samaritan woman?
- h. John 4:19-20 Was this Samaritan woman genuinely interested in the location of worship or was she simply trying to change the subject?

- i. Where do you see the compassion of Jesus revealed in His response to her comment about worship? John 4:21-25
- j. John 4:26 What are your thoughts about this direct revelation of Jesus to the Samaritan woman?

3) The resistance of the disciples to minister in Samaria

- a. Describe the attitude of the disciples of Jesus regarding ministry to the Samaritans. (John 4:8,27)
- b. What important revelation did Jesus give to His disciples? John 4:31-38
- c. Who are some people groups we tend to ignore when sharing the Good News about Jesus?

4) Ministry to the Samaritans in that region

- a. Who facilitated the ministry of Jesus to the Samaritans in that region despite local prejudice? John 4:28-29
- b. How did the residents of Sychar respond to this Samaritan woman’s testimony? John 4:39
- c. Not content simply to hear her testimony, what did many of the residents of Sychar do and with what result? John 4:30,40-42
- d. What lessons can we learn from this story about sharing our own testimony about Jesus?

