

Prayer Suggestions

1. Begin and end each session with The Lord's Prayer.
2. Pray for those suffering with COVID-19.
3. Pray for Medical workers. Write those you know by name here:

4. Pray for your neighbors by name. Write their names here as part of your prayer

5. Check on neighbors, friends. Having a chat with someone can prevent feelings of isolation and lets people know God loves them and they are important.

Lent: Following Jesus, Growing Closer to God



by Alessandra De Gaspari

**Bell & Grace United Methodist Churches
March 15-21, 2020
Leicester, NC**

Sunday, March 15

John 4:3-9

³ Therefore, he left Judea and went back to Galilee.

⁴ Jesus had to go through Samaria. ⁵ He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

1. Who are the people that we are told not to associate with today? Who tells us this? Why are we told this?

2. Write a prayer to God about this. Write it here.

Friday/Saturday March 20/21

John 4 ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here."

¹⁷ The woman replied, "I don't have a husband."

"You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. ¹⁸ "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth."

¹⁹ The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."

Highlight or underline what you find interesting in the commentary.

Commentary:

While different scholars have offered numerous interpretations of this puzzling text, there is no real consensus.

This is because in first century Palestine, a woman could not initiate divorce except in extremely rare circumstances. Therefore, the Samaritan woman's five former husbands must have either divorced her or died. This would have spelled disaster for her since women relied on the patriarchal household to survive.

Whatever else she may have been, the Samaritan woman was not a profligate divorcee.

While Jesus at first affirms the woman's reply that she has no husband, he then enigmatically implies that she does have one. But before branding her as a harlot or adulteress, we would be wise to remember that Roman marriage laws stipulated only the freeborn could marry, and then only to another freeborn person. This excluded from legal marriage the millions of freed persons (former slaves) who populated the empire. Living as a concubine could have been the Samaritan woman's only option if she and her "husband" were both freed persons, or if one was freeborn and the other freed. While we will probably never know the exact historical circumstances underpinning the Samaritan woman's domestic situation, it is clear that Jesus paid no attention whatsoever to social mores that diminished women.

From: <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/simply-spirit/clueless-preaching-about-samaritan-woman-misses-point>

Thursday, March 19

John 4:39-41

³⁹ Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word, ⁴² and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."

1. What was it like for you when you first believed in Jesus?

2. Thank God for the people in your life who shared Jesus' love with you.

Monday, March 16

John 4:4-8: ⁴ Jesus had to go through Samaria. ⁵ He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

¹⁰ Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water?" ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

1. Why did Jesus speak to the Samaritan Woman? What did the Samaritan woman have that Jesus needed?

2. What did Jesus have that the Samaritan woman needed?

3. What does Jesus have that you need today?

