

Why Am I Here?

2024-10-21 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

John writes that Jesus had to go through Samaria. There were other roads, and most Jews took them, mostly out of prejudice. So why did he have to? Because a woman was waiting at a well there. Pastor Matt's point: the route matters, and so does yours. Whatever season carried you to where you are right now was necessary too. But you cannot move forward until you answer one honest question: where am I? And what Joseph said at the end of Genesis still holds: what others meant for harm, God works into good.

To get started

- What first brought you to church, and would you call that season good or bad?

Looking back at the message

The where am I question is the practical core. Ask it about money, emotion, and faith separately.

- 1 Pastor Matt said many people cannot solve a problem because they have never honestly answered the question: where am I? What are you avoiding looking at?
- 2 Pastor Matt said many men are trained to hide emotion, and years later they cannot even name what they feel. Where do you see that in yourself or in someone you love?
- 3 Pastor Matt said most of our trouble is not God derailing us. It is us jumping off the tracks while he is still working. What do you make of that? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:1-6. The word had in verse 4 is doing a lot of work.

- 4 Read John 4:1-4. What was the practical reason Jesus left Judea, and what was the bigger reason?
- 5 The text says he had to go through Samaria, even though other roads existed. Why that word, had?
- 6 Read Genesis 50:19-20. What does Joseph say about the harm his brothers did?
- 7 Read Acts 8:1-4. Persecution scattered the church. What came out of it? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Understanding where you came from is not the same as excusing it. Keep that distinction.

- 8 Pastor Matt said knowing where you came from is not the cure, but it helps. He traced his own struggle with friendships back to a childhood of constant moves. What in your history explains something about you now?
- 9 Where are you right now, honestly: with money, with emotions, or with God?
- 10 Whatever brought you into this season, what might it have been necessary for?
- 11 What road are you avoiding because of who you might have to meet on it? OPTIONAL

The group together

The Samaria detour was for one person. Ask who the group might be routed toward.

- 12 Jesus took that route for one person. Who might God be routing you toward right now?
- 13 Who do you avoid the way people avoided Samaria?
- 14 How could this group help each other name where they actually are?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the honest answer to where am I, and what is the first step from there?

You might pray about

- For honesty about where we actually are
- For people in a season that feels pointless
- For eyes to see who God has put on our route