

See For Yourself

2025-01-13 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4:39-42

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

The woman at the well went back to town and told everyone about Jesus, and the townspeople did something remarkable: they left their work on the word of a woman most of them would not normally trust. But the better part comes two days later. They told her: we no longer believe just because of what you said. We have heard for ourselves. Pastor Matt's point is that secondhand testimony can start a faith, but it cannot finish one. You own a Bible, which most people in history did not. A walk with God stays limited as long as it runs entirely on someone else's experience.

To get started

- Who first told you about Jesus, and how much of your faith is still resting on what they said?

Looking back at the message

The marathon story is about knowing something propositionally and then experiencing it. Start there.

- 1 Pastor Matt had just run a marathon and said he thought he knew what it would be like, right up until he ran it. Where has faith been like that for you, known in theory until experienced?
- 2 Pastor Matt said a faith that runs entirely on what other people tell you stays limited forever. At some point you have to see for yourself. What would seeing for yourself mean this month?
- 3 Pastor Matt described the church as a transportation vessel meant to take people somewhere, not a cruise ship for playing games and enjoying the ride. What is the difference in practice? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:28-30 and 39-42. The two halves frame the whole message.

- 4 Read John 4:28-30. The woman gives her testimony. What do the townspeople actually do in response?
- 5 Read verses 39-42. Two days later, what has changed for them, and how do they describe it to her?
- 6 Read Psalm 34:8. Taste and see that the Lord is good. What is that verse actually inviting you to do?
- 7 Read Romans 10:9. Pastor Matt called this the prescription. What does it require, and what does it not require? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He was clear that salvation is the starting point, not the finish line. Keep sanctification in view.

- 8 How could someone taste and see that the Lord is good and then stop going back for more? Have you stopped?
- 9 Be honest: is your faith currently a get-out-of-hell card or an ongoing relationship?
- 10 What is one thing you have only ever heard about God secondhand that you could go read for yourself this week?
- 11 Pastor Matt admitted that when following Jesus costs him something, he does not always say yes. Where are you not saying yes right now? OPTIONAL

The group together

The Samaritans went together. Seeing for yourself is not the same as doing it alone.

- 12 Seeing for yourself is not the same as going it alone. What is the difference?
- 13 What could this group do to help each other actually open the Bible during the week?
- 14 You are carrying a testimony the way the woman at the well carried hers. Who needs to hear yours?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What will you go see for yourself this week rather than take on someone else's word?

You might pray about

- For firsthand experience of God, not borrowed belief
- For those in the group who feel God has been silent
- For growth in holiness now, not only a future in heaven