

The Quiet Part Out Loud

2024-10-27 • 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

A woman came to the well at noon, the hottest hour of the day, the hour nobody chose. That timing tells you she was avoiding people. Jesus asked her for a drink anyway. Then he moved the conversation from surface water to living water, and finally he named the thing she had not said out loud: five husbands, and the man she had now was not one of them. She did not walk away. Pastor Matt's point is that there is a catharsis in saying the quiet part out loud. Being shallow, stuck, or ashamed is not disqualifying. It is the exact position from which grace gets received.

To get started

- What is something true that you know and never say?

Looking back at the message

He told a story about a girl who told him bluntly he was headed for hell, and credited it with his conversion. Bluntness has a place.

- 1 Pastor Matt told the story of a girl bluntly telling him, before he was a believer, that the way he was living would lead him to hell, and he credits that offensive sentence with starting his faith. Has anyone ever been that direct with you?
- 2 Pastor Matt described couples who brush things under the rug so they can keep looking like the dream couple. Where is that happening in a relationship of yours?
- 3 Pastor Matt admitted that when he said his backyard project out loud, the real motivation turned out to be wanting to look like the neighbors. What comes out when you say your motives out loud? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:5-26. The noon detail and the Samaritan detail both matter.

- 4 Read John 4:5-9. Why does it matter that she came at noon, and why does it matter that she was a Samaritan?
- 5 Jesus opens by asking her for a drink. Why do you think he starts by needing something from her?
- 6 Read verses 13-18. Jesus moves from water to husbands in a few sentences. Was naming her situation a rebuke, or something else?
- 7 Jesus names the most painful fact of her life, and she does not walk away. What does that tell you about how he said it? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He warned against tiptoeing into the shallow end. That is the application.

- 8 Pastor Matt said the people who grow spiritually are the ones who dive into the cold water rather than tiptoe around the shallow end. Which one are you?
- 9 When something in a message convicts you, what do you usually do with the feeling?
- 10 What is the quiet part you have not said out loud, to God or to anyone?
- 11 The Samaritan woman kept coming back to a well that could not fix her life. Where are you looking for satisfaction from something that will not satisfy?

The group together

Directness only works where there is trust. Talk about how to build it before using it.

- 12 What has to be true about a relationship before someone can say a hard thing to you and be heard?
- 13 How could this group be a place where the quiet part gets said well rather than badly?
- 14 Is there something you have been avoiding saying to someone in your life?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the one honest sentence you need to say this week, and who needs to hear it?

You might pray about

- For the courage to be honest with God about what is actually going on
- For conversations that have been avoided
- For anyone in the group who feels like the person nobody wants at the well