

New Life International Fellowship
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“Worshipping in Spirit and Truth”

Introduction

Sometimes, to grow spiritually, we have to be willing to let go of what was ignorant or even harmful growing up in order to take hold of what Jesus really intends for us in our relationship with God and in our family lives.

Biblical Text: John 4:4-26

Jesus' Encounter with the Samaritan Woman

1. Jesus asks for a drink. (4:7)

2. Jesus reveals that she has a deeper problem. She should be asking him for what he can give her. (4:10-11)

3. Jesus explains that what he has to offer is greater than what she thinks she needs. (4:15-18) The more we know the depth of our need, the more we know what to ask God for. Without that knowledge, we may come to God looking for something we want or think we need but miss out on receiving what we most need. God uses the, sometimes agonizing, questioning process to help us to get to a deeper place of self-awareness and spiritual readiness.

4. The Father wants believers to worship in Spirit and Truth. (See John 3; 4:25-26; 14:6.)

5. What does all this have to do with our families of origins and current families and relationships?

Illustration —The story of Tara Westover, told in her NY Times bestseller, *Educated*.

Conclusion

Look at your own faith, beliefs, and relationship with God. Are they based on the truth of the Gospel? Are they truly Jesus-centered? Are you experiencing streams of living water flowing up from within from the Spirit of God? Do you have the courage to call out what is not healthy or sound? Do you have the strength to chart a course based on what is most true and most Spirit-led?

Practical Application

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

In Jesus's loving, but honest, way, he exposed what was wrong in the Samaritan woman's faith and practice. He called her to himself and to a vision of living water flowing through her to heal her and to nourish her. He called her to worship God in Spirit and in truth. And so he calls us today.

1. Regardless of your family of origin and upbringing, what would it mean for you to take another step toward Jesus in your own faith and life?
2. How could you live more fully by the Truth and by the Spirit?
3. Where do you need to shed your attachment to unhealthy, ignorant, or misguided leftovers from childhood, to let the living water flow more fully and freely through you?
4. How could you make your current family relationships more full of the Spirit and Truth?