



## Small group study materials, April 2020

### Chapter & verse – Sonia Soans (page 21)

Read John 4:4-26, followed by Sonia Soans' article.

1. The first paragraph of Sonia's article says that both Lent and Women's History Month call for reflection and transformation. Do you agree? What could life look like if we were transformed by reflecting on these seasons?
2. In the Bible passage, Jesus describes the transformation that could take place if the Samaritan woman was to drink from living water. What do you understand by what Jesus says here? How would you explain 'eternal life' to someone who asked?
3. Sonia described the biblical text as surprising, because 'we expect the woman to be rebuked but Jesus has other plans'. What kind of people do we rebuke, or expect to be rebuked, today? How might Jesus see them differently?
4. The article's fifth paragraph states: 'We live in a world where women are still not treated equally. We are viewed with suspicion, as less clever, less capable, evil, impure.' Have you experienced or heard about women being treated unfairly? Discuss examples.
5. Read John 8:1-11, which Sonia refers to in the sixth paragraph. Did Jesus treat the Samaritan woman differently from the woman due to be stoned? What do these two readings tell us about God?
6. The Samaritan woman goes on to spread the Gospel message after her transformative conversation with Jesus. What would it take for us to be the same? What additional support could we offer to those who spread the Gospel message today?
7. Sonia ends her article by reminding us that God welcomes us 'imperfect as we are'. In what ways have you felt the love of God?

**For further reflection:** 'His authority shall grow continually ... He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.' Isaiah 9:7

# Reform

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**Chapter & verse**

### Sonia Soans Chapter & verse

For those of us who struggle, this is a message of hope



... The Samaritan woman said to him, 'When is that going to happen, sir? It is now about 40 years ago that this well was dug...'

**F**or Whiston's Library Month I'd like to see members of a church who struggle with their faith. The Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well is a woman who struggled with her faith. She had been married to a man who was not her husband. When you have said 'I am' it is hard to go back. It is hard to say 'I am not' when you have said 'I am'. It is hard to say 'I am not' when you have said 'I am'.

**Jesus chose an imperfect woman**

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... The Samaritan woman said to him, 'When is that going to happen, sir? It is now about 40 years ago that this well was dug...'

**Prayer:** Jesus, you inspired the Samaritan woman you met at the well to become a disciple, a follower, a missionary, a teacher. Help us walk in her footsteps. Let your living water be a spring to us, gushing up to eternal life. Amen.

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