

Message-based Study

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Connection

What are you always running out of?

Content -

Even when you believe in Jesus, a feeling of emptiness, a feeling that something is missing, can come over you. In that moment there are two choices: Diversion (finding a way to escape or bury the feeling), or Exploration. God calls you to exploration. He'll show you that these feelings will point you back to him.

How do you deal with feelings of emptiness?

Sadness, depression, anger, fatigue, a feeling that something is not right. What do you do? Diversion is the impulse to ignore, to medicate, to change the subject from what's bothering you. Diversion will never fill the emptiness you feel. Exploration, on the other hand, requires honesty and hard work. You'll have to:

- **Bring your honest self to God.**
- **Bring the Word (the Bible).**
- **Make your request to God (for a solution).**

An Intersection

Read John 4, the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

This is an intersection. Jesus makes them happen. God designs intersections so your life will intersect with him and his work.

1. Can you describe a situation you didn't expect to be in, only to find that God had led you there?

The woman at the well has issues and questions, and Jesus has an answer, a gift, for her – Living Water. But the woman diverts again and again. She notes that Jesus has no bucket for the well. She challenges his ancestry, his qualifications and his religion. But Jesus won't change the subject. The woman finally diverts with an excuse that the Messiah will come and "explain everything." And Jesus says, "I am he."

2. How might you react when someone close to you is avoiding an important issue they need to face?

In the intersection—at the crossroads—Jesus turns our attention to himself, like he did with the woman at the well. He will be very clear, because that is what he does.

3. What could you say to let them know the Messiah has come to “explain everything”?

An Observation

Read Jeremiah 2:13. If we ignore the Living Water and search for other ways to be satisfied, we sin. We go thirsty and hungry in our souls. A starving soul gets “hangry”; a world of starving souls is not a good place.

Read Psalm 2. God “scoffs” at a world that rages as if he did not exist, but “blessed are all who take refuge in him.” Pulling away from him is like pulling away from oxygen. It becomes impossible to exist. Believing in Jesus the Messiah, accepting him, changes hearts. He is the best answer for a broken world.

4. What example of “raging nations” hangs heavily on your mind today?

5. What are some good ways to be sure you are breathing God’s oxygen?

An Invitation

Read Isaiah 55. The Lord says, “Come, all you who are thirsty.” He invites you to bring your emotions and feelings and fatigue and anger to him, to lay them before him and search him for satisfaction: “Listen to me and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.”

Commitment

In John 6:35, Jesus declares that he is the “bread of life.” So, when you are in a “bad place,” ask him why you feel that way. Be willing to explore that. God is inviting you to a better place with him. Isaiah 55 tells us that God’s Word accomplishes what he desires, like rain watering the earth to make it grow and flourish. Think again about this plan:

- Bring your honest self to God every day.
- Bring the Word, the Bible.
- Make your request.

6. How could you put this into practice today?