

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

I Am - Part 3 - Messiah

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Introduction

Jesus had an intimate relationship with His Father in heaven and regularly withdrew, prayed, and spent time alone with God. He knew what it was to be guided and prompted by the Holy Spirit. Scripture does not indicate whether He knew the outcome in advance when He followed those promptings. Similarly for modern-day believers, often God does not reveal the reason for the Holy Spirit's prompting ahead of time. He usually prompts us to take the first step, and then the next, and so on. The Bible provides many examples where the first step is simply being obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Introductory Questions (optional)

1. Have you ever had the sense that you just had to do something, and felt that you were being prompted by the Holy Spirit?
2. What place does the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit have in your life?
Read: Romans 8:14, Psalms 119:105
3. What is the relationship between the written Word of God and being led by the Spirit of God?

Read

John 4:1-42

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Discuss

1. Dale explained that for the Jewish people there was a way to travel to the northern part of Israel without going through Samaria. However, verse 4 tells us, "He had to go through Samaria". Considering that He was wholly human, why do you think Jesus was able to be so clearly guided by the Holy Spirit?
2. Dale explained that it was not normal for Jews to go through Samaria in those days, let alone speak to a Samaritan, particularly as a man speaking to a woman. What can we learn from the way Jesus impacts the Samaritan village of Sychar simply by starting a conversation with one woman?
3. Sometimes we need to be open to opportunities, even when outside our normal setting. In Samaria, Jesus' starting point was a simple conversation. Share examples of how we can capture moments in our everyday life and turn them into meaningful conversations, just like Jesus did with the woman at the well.
4. Read verses 13-18. Jesus moves the conversation to a spiritual phase that includes a 'word of knowledge' about the woman's life, which then leads to an open and frank conversation about salvation. Discuss how this unfolded in the passage and share stories of moments when you have experienced conversations like this. What is the key to having these conversations?
5. Read verse 23; "the Father is looking for those who will worship him that way". What does Jesus mean here by 'worship'? What is the significance of this statement to the way you and I do life today?
6. Read verses 35-36. Jesus says, "Wake up and look around". Do you think Jesus is making a statement of principle? How can we ready ourselves to be prompted by the Holy Spirit to do the following:
 - Capture a moment by starting a casual conversation
 - Move the conversation to a meaningful space
 - Be led by the Spirit to move the conversation to a spiritual one
 - Share a personal story of our journey with Jesus

Respond

In every moment and in every situation, culture, home, workplace, university or school, the harvest is ripe for the kingdom of God to grow. Each of us is commissioned to bring in that harvest. This may involve us changing the way we see ourselves and the way we look at the people and opportunities around us. Maybe we don't see this as a strong point in our Christian walk, but never say never. Instead say, "God is not finished with me yet" and commit to being obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

What is one step you can take this week to put yourself in a place where God can enable you to have a meaningful conversation?