STUDY BIBLE WORKBOOK

John 4

Living Water for a Thirsty Soul

QUICK STUDY + DEEP DIVE

At Jacob’s well Jesus offers living water and teaches worship in spirit and truth. Samaritans recognize Him as the Savior of the world, and an official trusts His life-giving word before seeing the result.

Scripture quotations: World English Bible (WEB)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Quick Study: Begin with the overview, chapter movements, Bible words, Greek pronunciation notes, Gospel Connection, and a guided prayer.

Deep Dive: Nine Scripture-first SOAP passages include all 54 WEB verses, substantial observation, application, and prayer.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

John 4 — Geographic Setting

Jesus travels from Judea through Samaria into Galilee; the chapter names Sychar, Cana, and Capernaum. Numbered pins mark study locations, not an exact travel route.



Original WGM atlas with chapter pins. Locations and ancient territorial boundaries are approximate.

Regional location



COUNTRIES IN YEAR 2020

1 — Sychar / Jacob's well: Samaritan setting near Mount Gerizim; exact ancient city identification remains debated (4:5–6).

2 — Cana: Galilean town of the healing sign; traditional placement, exact ancient identification debated (4:46).

3 — Capernaum: City where the official's son is ill (4:46–54).

4 — Jerusalem: Context for departure from Judea and earlier festival (4:3, 4:45).

Map reading: Pastel territories and borders approximate first-century political regions; relief indicates hills and mountains; blue marks water. No precise route is asserted.

John 4 — Living Water for a Thirsty Soul

MAIN VERSE

“But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” John 4:14, WEB

BIG PICTURE

Jesus meets a Samaritan woman beside Jacob’s well and reveals the gift of living water. He speaks truthfully about her life, teaches that worship must be in spirit and truth, and identifies Himself as Messiah. The town hears Him and confesses Him as the Savior of the world. Back in Galilee, a desperate father believes Jesus’ word and discovers that his son has been healed.

From Judea into Samaria (4:1–9)

Jesus stops at Jacob’s well and speaks with a Samaritan woman across a longstanding social divide.

Living water offered (4:10–15)

Jesus offers a gift that leads to eternal life, beyond the water drawn from a well.

Truth and worship (4:16–26)

Jesus knows the woman’s story, teaches worship in spirit and truth, and identifies Himself as Messiah.

An invitation to come and see (4:27–30)

The woman brings her neighbors toward Jesus with honest testimony.

QUICK STUDY NOTES

The Chapter’s Major Movements

Harvest and mission (4:31–38)

Jesus teaches His disciples to see and join the Father’s work.

The Savior of the world (4:39–42)

Samaritans come to believe through both testimony and hearing Jesus personally.

Faith at a distance (4:43–54)

An official trusts Jesus’ word and discovers his son has been healed.

QUICK STUDY FLOW

Jesus enters Samaria and rests at Jacob’s well

↓

He offers living water and brings the conversation into the light

↓

He reveals true worship and identifies Himself as Messiah

↓

The woman invites her town to come and see

↓

Jesus teaches His disciples about the ready harvest

↓

Samaritans believe and call Him the Savior of the world

↓

An official trusts Jesus’ healing word in Galilee

QUICK STUDY NOTES

Important Bible Words

Word / Phrase	Simple Meaning	Why It Matters
Samaritan	Member of a community with historic ties and tensions with Judean Jews	Jesus ministers across a real religious and social divide without abandoning truth.
Living water	Ordinary expression for flowing water; Jesus uses it for divine life	His promise reaches beyond temporary thirst to eternal life.
Jacob’s well	An ancient well associated with Israel’s patriarch Jacob	The setting makes the contrast between physical water and spiritual life concrete.
Mount Gerizim	Mountain associated with Samaritan worship	The woman raises a longstanding dispute about sacred worship locations.
Spirit and truth	Worship aligned with God’s Spirit and His revealed reality	Worship is not a matter of location or feeling alone.
Messiah / Christ	God’s Anointed One, the promised Deliverer	Jesus tells the woman that He is the awaited Messiah.
Harvest	Agricultural image for gathering people in response to God	Jesus calls disciples to recognize and join the Father’s work.
Sign	An act that points beyond itself to Jesus’ identity and authority	The official’s son is healed by Jesus’ word, leading to faith.

Which of these words is most important to me in John 4, and why?

Translation Word Notes

Pronunciations are approximate classroom-style Biblical Greek. CAPITAL letters show the stressed syllable. Greek helps clarify meaning but is not required for understanding Scripture. NKJV/NIV/NLT phrases are brief comparisons; full Scripture quotations remain WEB.

Verse	Greek & pronunciation	NKJV	NIV	NLT	Meaning in context
4:10	hydōr zōn hoo-DOR ZOH-on	living water	living water	living water	Jesus uses the image of flowing water for His gift of lasting life.
4:23	proskyneō prohs-koo-NEH-oh	worship	worship	worship	To bow or worship; the Father seeks worship grounded in spirit and truth.
4:24	pneuma PNEW-mah	Spirit	spirit	Spirit	Greek can refer to spirit or Spirit; context and translation decisions matter.
4:24	alētheia ah-LAY-thee-ah	truth	truth	truth	True worship responds to God as He has revealed Himself.
4:42	sōtēr soh-TAIR	Savior	Savior	Savior	The Samaritans recognize Jesus as the world’s Savior.
4:50	pisteuō pis-TEV-oh	believed	took Jesus at his word	believed	The father trusts Jesus’ statement before seeing the result.
4:54	sēmeion say-MAY-on	sign	sign	miraculous sign	The sign points to Jesus’ authority, not merely the wonder itself.

Word-study notes:

The Gospel Connection

John 4 shows the reach and power of Jesus' saving mission. The One who offers living water to a Samaritan woman is confessed as the Savior of the world. His gift is not earned by ancestry, location, reputation, or ritual; it is received by faith in Him. The woman's town hears His words and believes. Later, the official trusts Jesus' word before the result is visible. Both accounts direct us away from self-reliance and toward the Son who gives life. The cross and resurrection will show fully how this Savior brings eternal life to sinners (John 19–20).

Reflection: Am I looking to Christ for lasting life, or to things that can never satisfy my deepest need?

A Short Prayer from John 4

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to give living water and to call people from every background to trust Him. Forgive the times I look to temporary things for lasting life. Teach me to worship You in spirit and truth, to speak of Christ with humility, and to believe His Word even before I see the answer. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

QUICK STUDY COMPLETE

One Truth to Carry With You

Jesus offers living water for eternal life, seeks worship in spirit and truth, and invites us to believe His Word.

READY TO GO DEEPER — NEXT PAGE

Ready to Go Deeper?

This Deep Dive follows S.O.A.P.: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Begin with the complete WEB passage. Let the text set the terms of our study, then consider the explanation, respond personally, and pray.

S — Scripture

Read every verse slowly; note changes in speaker, setting, and what Jesus reveals about Himself.

O — Observation

What is the author saying about life, worship, witness, faith, the Spirit, and the Savior?

A — Application

What should I believe, confess, obey, trust, or share in response to the passage?

P — Prayer

Pray from the passage’s truth rather than from imagined details about the characters.

Before I begin, what do I want God to teach me from John 4?

Questions and repeated words to watch for:

JOHN 4:1–9

A Journey into Samaria

S — Scripture

1 Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John
2 (although Jesus himself didn't baptize, but his disciples),
3 he left Judea and departed into Galilee.
4 He needed to pass through Samaria.
5 So he came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.
7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
8 For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.
9 The Samaritan woman therefore said to him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

John 4:1–9, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus leaves Judea for Galilee and enters Samaria. John says He "needed" to pass through Samaria, but does not specify whether the necessity was geographical, purposeful, or both. The setting includes Jacob's well near Sychar. Jesus is genuinely weary and asks a Samaritan woman for water; His humanity is not hidden behind His divine identity.

The woman recognizes the social distance between Jews and Samaritans. John mentions the friction, but this conversation does not make every Jewish or Samaritan person identical. Jesus addresses her directly rather than letting inherited hostility prevent the encounter.

Before the woman understands who He is, Jesus has already moved toward her with a simple request. The conversation will redirect attention from ordinary water to the life that only He can give.

My observations:

A — Application

When do inherited assumptions or social discomfort keep me from treating another person as someone Jesus values?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for crossing barriers to speak with those who need You. Give me humility, compassion, and courage to listen to Your word.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:10–15

The Gift of Living Water

S — Scripture

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you
would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”
11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. So where do you
get that living water?
12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his
children and his livestock?”
13 Jesus answered her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again,
14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will
give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”
15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I don’t get thirsty, neither come all the way
here to draw.”

John 4:10–15, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus calls the water He gives the “gift of God.” The woman hears the language through the practical setting of a deep well; Jesus speaks of something far greater than a new source of ordinary drinking water.

Water drawn from Jacob’s well can meet thirst temporarily. The water Jesus gives becomes a spring leading to eternal life. The imagery points to the enduring life and satisfaction found in Him, and the Gospel later connects living water with the Holy Spirit (John 7:37–39).

The woman asks for this water, although her words show that she has not yet fully understood Jesus’ promise. The chapter invites us to move from curiosity about a useful gift toward faith in the giver Himself.

My observations:

A — Application

What do I keep expecting to satisfy my deepest spiritual need when Jesus offers eternal life?

P — Prayer

Father, turn my heart from temporary substitutes. Teach me to receive the lasting life Jesus gives and to trust Him more than what fades.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:16–20

Truth Before the Savior

S — Scripture

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”
17 The woman answered, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You said well, ‘I have no husband,’
18 for you have had five husbands; and he whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truly.”
19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.
20 Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”

John 4:16–20, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus knows details of the woman’s relationships that she has not disclosed. His knowledge demonstrates that He is more than an ordinary traveler. The text states the facts of her marital history, but it does not tell us the causes of those marriages or authorize us to invent her motives.

She recognizes Jesus as a prophet and raises a genuine question about the proper place of worship. The contrast between Mount Gerizim and Jerusalem reflects a historic difference between Samaritan and Jewish worship communities.

Jesus does not ignore truth about personal life, yet the conversation also refuses to end with the woman’s circumstances. It moves toward the identity of God and the kind of worship He seeks.

My observations:

A — Application

Can I allow Christ’s truth to examine my life without hiding, while refusing to make unsupported judgments about others?

P — Prayer

Lord, You know me completely. Give me honesty in confession and gentleness toward others; lead me into truth, not shame or pretense.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:21–26

Worship in Spirit and Truth

S — Scripture

21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in
Jerusalem will you worship the Father.
22 You worship that which you don’t know. We worship that which we know; for salvation is from the
Jews.
23 But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers.
24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”
25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming, he who is called Christ. When he has come,
he will declare to us all things.”
26 Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who speaks to you.”

John 4:21–26, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus announces that true worship will not be confined to either Mount Gerizim or Jerusalem. This does not mean history and revelation are unimportant; He explicitly says that “salvation is from the Jews,” recognizing God’s promises through Israel.

Because God is spirit, genuine worship must be in spirit and truth. Evangelical Christians explain aspects of this phrase differently, but the point is not that sincerity alone replaces truth, nor that outward location creates a worshiper. Worship is a response to God as He truly reveals Himself.

The woman expects the Messiah to explain these matters. Jesus answers with a direct self-disclosure: He is the One speaking to her. The question of worship comes into focus in the person of Christ.

My observations:

A — Application

Is my worship shaped by who God has revealed Himself to be in Christ, or merely by habit, place, or feeling?

P — Prayer

Father, bring my heart and mind into faithful worship. May I honor You in spirit and truth because Jesus has made You known.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:27–30

Come, See a Man

S — Scripture

27 Just then, his disciples came. They marveled that he was speaking with a woman; yet no one said, “What are you looking for?” or, “Why do you speak with her?”
28 So the woman left her water pot, went away into the city, and said to the people,
29 “Come, see a man who told me everything that I have done. Can this be the Christ?”
30 They went out of the city, and were coming to him.

John 4:27–30, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

The disciples arrive and are surprised to see Jesus speaking with the woman. John does not record an argument; the woman immediately returns to the town, leaving behind her water jar.

Her invitation is simple: “Come, see.” She does not claim to understand everything about the Messiah. She tells what she knows, asks an honest question, and points others toward Jesus for themselves.

Her testimony becomes the beginning of a wider response in the town. Witness is not always a polished speech; it can be a faithful invitation to examine Jesus’ words.

My observations:

A — Application

Who could I invite to encounter Jesus through Scripture rather than merely listen to my opinions?

P — Prayer

Jesus, give me courage to speak truly and humbly about You. Help my testimony direct people to Your Word.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:31–38

Fields Ready for Harvest

S — Scripture

31 In the meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”
32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”
33 The disciples therefore said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”
34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.
35 Don’t you say, ‘There are yet four months until the harvest’? Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, that they are white for harvest already.
36 He who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit to eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.
37 For in this the saying is true, ‘One sows, and another reaps.’
38 I sent you to reap that for which you haven’t labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

John 4:31–38, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

As the disciples focus on food, Jesus speaks of the sustaining purpose that guides His ministry: doing the Father’s will and accomplishing the work for which He was sent.

He tells them to look at fields ready for harvest. In the surrounding story, people from the Samaritan town are coming to meet Him. Whether the image points immediately to those people or more broadly to His mission, the call is to see what God is doing rather than postpone obedience.

One person sows and another reaps, yet both rejoice. The mission is God’s work, and faithful servants need not claim the credit for what others have prepared.

My observations:

A — Application

Am I attentive to opportunities to serve God now, even when someone else receives the visible results?

P — Prayer

Father, open my eyes to people ready to hear. Give me patience to sow faithfully and humility to rejoice in another person’s harvest.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:39–42

The Savior of the World

S — Scripture

39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in him because of the word of the woman, who testified, “He told me everything that I have done.”
40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed there two days.
41 Many more believed because of his word.
42 They said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of your speaking; for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

John 4:39–42, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Many Samaritans initially believe because of the woman’s testimony; more believe after hearing Jesus Himself. John moves from secondhand witness to firsthand conviction through Jesus’ own words.

The townspeople confess Him as “the Savior of the world.” John’s Gospel consistently shows that salvation in Jesus is not restricted to one ethnic or social group. This does not mean everyone is automatically saved; the narrative records people coming to believe.

Jesus remains with them two days. His presence gives weight to the invitation that began at the well: people can come, hear, and believe.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I help someone move from hearing my testimony to reading and believing Jesus’ words personally?

P — Prayer

Lord, thank You that Your saving invitation reaches people across human divisions. Use my words to lead others to hear You.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:43–48

A Desperate Request in Cana

S — Scripture

43 After the two days he went out from there and went into Galilee.
44 For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.
45 So when he came into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did in Jerusalem at the feast, for they also went to the feast.
46 Jesus came therefore again to Cana of Galilee, where he made the water into wine. There was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.
47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to him and begged him that he would come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.
48 Jesus therefore said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will in no way believe.”

John 4:43–48, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus returns to Galilee. John briefly reflects on the saying that a prophet has no honor in his own country, then describes how Galileans receive Him after observing signs at Jerusalem. Their response invites us to distinguish fascination with wonders from trust in Jesus Himself.

At Cana, where He had turned water into wine, an official asks Him to come heal a son who is gravely ill in Capernaum. The distance matters because the father cannot control the outcome by his own presence or authority.

Jesus’ response uses a plural “you people,” challenging dependence on signs and wonders. The passage does not portray this father as simply faithless; it shows his trust developing as he listens to Christ.

My observations:

A — Application

Am I seeking Jesus only for a result I can see, or learning to trust Him and His word?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, I bring You my needs. Guard me from making visible results the measure of Your truth and goodness.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 4:49–54

He Believed the Word

S — Scripture

49 The nobleman said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”
50 Jesus said to him, “Go your way. Your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.
51 As he was going down, his servants met him and reported, saying “Your child lives!”
52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. They said therefore to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him.”
53 So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” He believed, as did his whole house.
54 This is again the second sign that Jesus did, having come out of Judea into Galilee.

John 4:49–54, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

The official pleads for his dying child. Jesus answers, “Go your way. Your son lives.” The man believes what Jesus says and starts home before he has evidence that the fever has ended.

His servants meet him with news of healing. The timing confirms Jesus’ word, and the father’s faith is joined by the belief of his household. John identifies this as the second sign in Galilee in his selected sequence of signs.

The story does not promise that every sincere request will result in immediate physical healing. It reveals Jesus’ authority across distance and calls readers to trust His word.

My observations:

A — Application

Where is Jesus calling me to obey or trust His word before I can see what He will do?

P — Prayer

Lord, strengthen my confidence in Your Word. Teach me to follow You faithfully in uncertainty, and care for those who suffer.

Pray this in your own words:

Hard Questions

Why did Jesus “need” to pass through Samaria?

John 4:4 uses language of necessity but does not give one explicit explanation. The road through Samaria was a possible route between Judea and Galilee; the unfolding encounter also shows Jesus’ purposeful ministry. We should not assert a secret travel route or motive beyond the text.

Was the Samaritan woman immoral because she had five husbands?

Jesus states her marital history and current situation but gives no explanation for how the five marriages ended. Death, divorce, exploitation, or sinful choices cannot be assigned as established facts. Her need for truth and salvation is real, as is ours.

Does worship “in spirit and truth” mean churches or places no longer matter?

Jesus teaches that authentic worship is not confined to Mount Gerizim or Jerusalem. Christian fellowship, orderly worship, and the truth of God’s revelation still matter. The passage centers worship on the Father as known through Christ, not on a privileged geographic site.

What does “salvation is from the Jews” mean?

Jesus recognizes God’s saving promises and the Messiah coming through Israel’s story (Genesis 12:3; Romans 9:4–5). It does not license hatred toward Jewish or Samaritan people; Jesus Himself is Jewish and offers salvation to Samaritans in this chapter.

Does “living water” mean material prosperity or freedom from every difficulty?

No. Jesus contrasts a temporary physical drink with the water that leads to eternal life. He does not promise that believers will never experience physical thirst, hardship, or suffering. John 7:37–39 connects living water with the Holy Spirit.

What makes the official’s faith different from chasing signs?

The man asks for help, hears Jesus’ word, and goes before seeing the evidence. His trust grows as the miracle is confirmed. The chapter does not teach that miracles are automatic for believers; it shows the power and trustworthiness of Christ.

Where exactly was Sychar, and where was Cana?

Sychar is placed near the area of Shechem and Jacob’s well in Samaria; proposed identifications include the vicinity of modern Askar. The precise identification of first-century Sychar and ancient Cana remains debated. Our atlas places them approximately and does not draw an exact itinerary.

My questions and notes:

Reflection

What temporary source of security or satisfaction do I turn to instead of the life Jesus offers?

Where do I need to face truth honestly without assuming the worst about someone else?

How can my worship be more grounded in the Father’s truth and the Spirit’s work?

Who can I invite to come and see Jesus for themselves through the Gospel?

Where can I trust Jesus’ Word even while the outcome remains unseen?

A Prayer for Living Water and Faith

Heavenly Father, You know my life and every hidden need. Thank You for meeting the woman at the well with truth and mercy, and for showing Your authority through the healing of the official's son. Forgive my attempts to satisfy my soul with lesser things, and my reluctance to trust when answers are not immediate. By Your Spirit, form in me sincere worship grounded in the truth of Your Word. Help me invite others to come and hear Jesus for themselves. Make me faithful to sow and joyful when others reap. I ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Amen.

Pray this in your own words:

ONE TRUTH TO CARRY WITH YOU

Jesus offers living water for eternal life, seeks worship in spirit and truth, and invites us to believe His Word.

Final Notes