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This week at Magdalen Road Church was week 3 in our 4Gs series.

We began by thinking that (unlike God) we are not self-sufficient but created such that we need things in life. The original blueprint in Genesis was that we would look to God and what he gives us - however as we mistrusted his goodness and walked out on Him, so in one sense we will never be satisfied (at least in these fallen bodies). The things we need, all point to the one who provides them - and to ultimate satisfaction in him.

We spent time with Jesus in John 4, at the well in Sychar with the Samaritan woman. We had 2 key points to hang ideas around:

### 1 Jesus came for everyone

It's an unusual account for many reasons that we might initially miss - the woman (and John) do not though. Jesus breaks all kinds of social and religious protocols in that he firstly speaks to her (men did not speak to women in public), also he as a Jew is speaking to a Samaritan and more than just speaking - but actually asking for water which would be akin to fellowship and hospitality.

She is cautious with Jesus as he approaches her but we begin to see some 'irregularities' about her as the account progresses - why is she alone in the heat of the day collecting water (usually it would be in the early morning when cooler but also in community). She's boiling hot but frozen out. As the story unfolds we get some hints as to why this might

be as Jesus draws attention to her marital status and history of relationships. She is an outcast, but Jesus (v4) HAD to go that way. Strictly speaking he didn't as people would avoid the area but rather he had a meeting with her. It was a divine appointment rather than geographically necessary.

### 2. Jesus came to quench our thirst forever

She thinks he's talking about collecting water, but rather Jesus is talking about the way that he can truly satisfy us. She feels empty on the inside but only Jesus can finally quench that thirst. Jesus doesn't rub her nose in the reality of her relationship issues, but rather highlights to her what her real needs are. When we think Jesus is not good or to be trusted, remember that he doesn't want something from us, but rather to give something to us.

The point he's making here is an extraordinary one in our culture - he's saying that the things of this world will not finally satisfy us - only he can. Her relationships are what happens when we try and live life without God. The maths tells the story.

Make sure you take some time in your groups to discuss how we get this wrong - in what ways do we look for satisfaction in other things? How do people finish the sentence "if only i could...."?

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### Here are some brief questions to get your grips interacting with some of the ideas in this account

Be honest - how do you finish the sentence ""if only i could...."? What do we think will satisfy us? What would our daydreams say?

Why was this encounter at the well unusual?

Why was she at the well what did the woman think she needed?

Why - later on in the account - does Jesus start talking about worship? How is that linked?