

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE

The Gospel of John — Week 14

ICEBREAKER: What's the best prank you pulled on someone?

OVERVIEW: If you don't have eternal life, then you don't have anything. You can be wealthy, famous, successful, talented, and beautiful, but without eternal life it does not matter. Eternal life may sound like a subject that is only relevant to the elderly, but it is just as important for the young. Eternal life is not only about life after death, but abundant life today. True life does not begin until you receive eternal life. When it comes to the subject of eternal life, no one is more authoritative than Jesus Christ. He died to make it available, and gives it to all who request it. In this discussion we will take a deeper look at the conversation about eternal life between Jesus and the woman at the well.

1. **Read John 4:1-26.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What can we learn about Jesus and eternal life from the fact that He offered it to the woman at the well?
3. Zoom in on John 4:10. How many insights about eternal life can you find in this one verse?
4. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that eternal life is something she would want if she understood it (Jn 4:10). What are the benefits and blessings of eternal life? How as the gift of eternal life benefited you?

5. In John 4:10 Jesus called eternal life a gift. What does it mean that eternal life is a gift (see also Rm 6:23)?
6. Calvinism teaches that God's gracious offer of eternal is irresistible, while Arminianism teaches that it is resistible. Does this story, especially verse ten, shed any light on the issue?
7. Read John 4:13-14. Jesus said that eternal life is soul satisfaction. How does eternal life result in a happier and more satisfying life?
8. Jesus brought up the woman's history of serial divorce and immorality to expose her sin. Why must a person see their sinfulness before they can receive eternal life?
9. To receive eternal life, we must repent of sin and believe in Christ. Do we see this response in the Samaritan woman?
10. In John 4:28-30, the reception of eternal life resulted in the Samaritan woman's service to Christ – she went to invite the entire village to meet Jesus. What are some of the other fruits of eternal life?

The Last Word: "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You." Augustine