

CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This meeting was a women's Bible study session focused on Chapter 2 of the Kingdom Woman study, titled "The Making of a Kingdom Woman." The session explored the story of the Samaritan woman at the well from John 4, using the metaphor of diamonds being mined from dirt to illustrate how Jesus seeks out and values women despite their flaws and sinful pasts. The study emphasized that all women have inherent worth in God's eyes, regardless of their circumstances, background, or past mistakes. The session included video teaching from the Evans family, group discussion, scripture reading, and personal reflections on how God pursues, transforms, and uses imperfect women for His kingdom purposes.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- The diamond metaphor: Women are like diamonds in the dirt—valuable even before being discovered, processed, and displayed
- God's intentional pursuit: Jesus deliberately went through Samaria to meet the woman at the well, breaking social customs
- The process of transformation: Kingdom women undergo a continual process of being found, refined, and shaped by God
- Humility and self-awareness: Recognizing our origins "in the dirt" keeps us humble and compassionate toward others
- Testimony as ministry: Sharing our stories of transformation gives hope to others facing similar struggles

Important Questions Raised:

- Why did Jesus break social customs to speak with the Samaritan woman?
- In what ways is Jesus like a diamond miner seeking valuable gems in the dirt?
- Why is it important for kingdom women to remember they came from the dirt?
- How does understanding our own brokenness deepen our relationship with God?

- Why should kingdom women share their testimonies with others?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- All women have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, yet Jesus actively seeks each one out
- Jesus broke cultural barriers (gender, race, religion, social status) to reach the Samaritan woman, demonstrating that no one is beyond His love
- The transformation from "dirt" to "display" is a lifelong process requiring patience, surrender, and honesty with God
- Remembering our own brokenness keeps us humble and enables us to minister compassionately to others
- Personal testimonies are powerful tools for evangelism because they demonstrate God's transforming power
- God gives every woman the same time, attention, and opportunity for relationship that He gave the Samaritan woman
- Kingdom women are not called to perfection but to authentic relationship with God and ongoing transformation

The Samaritan Woman: A Diamond in the Dirt

The primary focus of this session was John 4:1-42, the account of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. This woman had multiple strikes against her in first-century Jewish society: she was a Samaritan (a despised mixed-race people), she was a woman (whom Jewish men did not address publicly), and she had a questionable moral history (five previous husbands and currently living with a man not her husband). She came to draw water at noon, the hottest part of the day, likely to avoid the judgment and ridicule of other women who would come during cooler hours.

Despite all these factors, Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" (John 4:4)—a phrase indicating divine compulsion rather than geographical necessity, as most Jews deliberately traveled around Samaria to avoid contact with Samaritans. Jesus intentionally sought her out at a location rich with biblical history: Jacob's well, near Shechem, where Jacob had settled in disobedience to God's command to go to Bethel, bringing generational consequences on his

family. By choosing this location, Jesus was demonstrating that what He had done for Jacob—blessing him despite his disobedience—He could do for this woman and for all who come to Him.

The video teaching used the metaphor of diamond mining to illustrate this story. Diamonds have value even when they are deep in the earth, encased in kimberlite rock, invisible and inaccessible. They must be sought out by miners who descend into darkness to find them, then brought through a process of cutting, polishing, and refining before they are ready for display. Similarly, every woman begins "in the dirt" spiritually—born into sin, shaped by broken circumstances, carrying shame and regret. Yet Jesus, like a diamond miner, actively seeks each woman out, sees her inherent value, and begins the process of transformation.

The Samaritan woman initially tried to deflect Jesus's penetrating questions by discussing surface issues: the mechanics of drawing water, the proper location for worship, the history of Jacob's well. But Jesus cut through these diversions to address the root issues of her heart—her search for validation through relationships with men, her shame, her spiritual thirst. When He revealed that He knew everything about her past, rather than being condemned, she felt liberated. She left her water jar—symbol of her daily burden—and ran to tell everyone in her town, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" Her testimony brought many Samaritans to faith.

Relevant Q&A

Stacia: Why did Jesus speak to the Samaritan woman when it broke so many social customs?

CLC: He was breaking gender barriers (Jewish men didn't speak to women publicly) and racial/religious barriers (Jews avoided Samaritans entirely). Jesus came to tear down these cultural rules that didn't reflect God's heart. He looks deeper into our hearts and sees our need, not our social status or appearance.

Sameerah: I think Jesus was also showing His authority—that He is the Word, He is the law. Just like when He healed on the Sabbath despite the Pharisees' objections, He was demonstrating that He has the authority to determine what truly matters.

Brittany: Why might it be good for kingdom women to remember they came from the dirt?

CLC: To keep us humble, so we don't think more highly of ourselves than we ought to, as Romans 12:3 says.

Christy: It's also part of our testimony to others. When people see where we are now but hear that we faced the same struggles they're facing, it gives them hope that transformation is

possible.

Brittany: It also helps us have compassion for others the Lord may assign us to witness to.

Irene: It reminds us that what He did for one person, He can do for us and for anyone else. No one is beyond redemption.

Personal Applications: Gardening as Spiritual Metaphor

The session began with Stacia sharing how she had recently taken up gardening as a mental health practice. She explained that she was struggling with disappointment in multiple areas of life—marriage, children, work—where doing the "right things" wasn't yielding expected results. Gardening appealed to her because it offered something predictable: plant seeds in good soil, provide water and sunlight, and plants will grow. Yet even as she planted numerous seeds, she found herself expecting disappointment, revealing how deeply she had internalized a mindset of expecting failure despite doing everything correctly.

As her seeds began to sprout, Stacia experienced visible progress and learned to wait patiently, seeing that even the plants expected to take longest sometimes sprouted first. She realized that much growth happens beneath the surface—roots growing downward—before anything is visible above ground. This became a powerful metaphor for spiritual growth and God's work in circumstances that feel out of control.

CLC connected this to James 5:7: "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." The farmer becomes accustomed to waiting, trusting the process even when nothing is visible yet. During the pandemic, therapists recognized that people needed things they could control that were predictable, because all of life felt unpredictable—exactly what Stacia was experiencing.

Later in the session, Brittany unknowingly echoed this gardening metaphor when discussing the Samaritan woman's conversation with Jesus. She noted that the woman talked about surface issues (her husbands, the mechanics of drawing water, worship locations), but Jesus wanted to dig deeper to the root issues—her feelings of unworthiness, rejection, and her search for validation. Brittany said, "First you see the flower, but you gotta dig to get to that root." Stacia pointed out that Brittany had not heard the earlier gardening conversation, recognizing this as the Holy Spirit confirming the message through multiple people.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: What strikes you about Jesus having to go through Samaria?

Stacia: He "had to" but not in the sense that it was the only geographical route—Jews normally went around Samaria. He had to because He had to find her. He went completely out of His way, somewhere Jews would normally never go, to pursue this one woman. It shows how He pursues us.

CLC: That reminds me of the scripture that says He made Himself of no reputation and humbled Himself. He could have faced criticism from the disciples or others for talking to this woman, but He did it anyway.

The Process of Transformation and Authentic Relationship

A significant portion of the discussion focused on what it means to have an authentic, deep relationship with God rather than a superficial religious practice. Brittany emphasized that many people, especially in contemporary culture, know how to deal with stress but have not been taught to decompress and truly process their emotions and experiences. This inability to process deeply in horizontal relationships (with other people) makes it difficult to do so in our vertical relationship with God.

Brittany observed: "We can say 'I'm angry' or 'I'm sad' or 'I'm embarrassed,' but what you really feel is rejected, hurt, abandoned. But you're not giving God that. You start to respond with surface emotions, and He wants to get to the nitty-gritty. You're talking mountaintop, but He's trying to go to the valley."

This connected directly to the Samaritan woman's interaction with Jesus. She tried to keep the conversation on safe, surface topics, but Jesus persistently directed her to the heart of her spiritual need. When He revealed He knew about her five husbands and current living situation, rather than condemning her, He was inviting her to be honest about her real struggles. Her response—running to tell everyone "He told me everything I ever did"—showed her liberation. As Irene noted, "She was relieved that somebody knew what she had done. She was relieved to get it out."

The group discussed how this honesty and humility actually deepens intimacy with God. Brittany shared that she has been learning to sit in humility with God, even when He reveals difficult truths about herself: "The more I sit in it with that posture, the more I want to stay there. I don't mind being wrong, I just want to be in His presence, I just want to be blameless." She emphasized that as ego, pride, flesh, reputation, and feelings die, "the Lord is going to usher us into that life of suffering with Him in such a loving, kind way."

CLC connected this to truly knowing both God and yourself: "You have to have a right view of yourself to really have an intimate relationship with the Lord. Otherwise, you kind of just know about Him. But you gotta see yourself, then you can know Him more deeply, because you see your own need." Without this self-awareness, people become like the religious leaders Jesus criticized—outwardly righteous but lacking genuine relationship with God.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Do you believe Jesus gives you the same opportunity for time and attention as He gave to the Samaritan woman? Why or why not?

Brittany: Absolutely. The Lord is always waiting on us, not the other way around. He's always waiting for us to not be so drunk in our situations and circumstances. He's always waiting for us to pay Him more attention, to prioritize Him better, to be real with Him.

Stacia: The Word tells us He doesn't sleep or slumber, that we can always call on Him and He hears us. He pursues us like He pursued her. And from personal experience, when I come to Him completely wrong, I feel His presence. He's just there.

Irene: Sometimes He just wants us to be quiet, sit and wait until you hear Him, and you know it's coming from Him. Give it to Him and leave it alone. But most people can't do that—they try to fix it themselves. If you stay still and let Him do what He wants to do with you, you'll come out on the other side. But every time you put your two cents in it, He's gonna take you through it again.

The Power of Testimony and Witness

The session emphasized that sharing personal testimonies is a crucial aspect of being a kingdom woman. The Samaritan woman's immediate response after encountering Jesus was to run and tell her entire community, despite the fact that Jesus had exposed her shameful past. Her testimony—"He told me everything I ever did"—was not about her moral perfection but about encountering someone who knew her completely and loved her anyway.

Brittany explained why testimonies are so powerful: "When we share our witness, when we share our testimony with others, especially those in the same types of situations, it gives them hope to know that they can be restored. And their hope will be to Jesus Christ. The thing that they did was surrender to Christ, so it points more people to Christ ultimately." She emphasized that there is no real hope outside of Christ—anything else is temporary and fabricated.

Irene shared her personal testimony of losing four grandchildren in 1990, and how five years later, God positioned her to minister to someone else who had lost children. People told that grieving mother, "You're the only person who can say you really know what she's going through." Irene reflected that she never imagined when going through that devastating loss that God would later use it to help someone else. People often asked her, "How did you make it?" Her answer pointed to God: "He said, 'I am anything you need me to be.'" God placed her in a church family where she lost four grandchildren but gained ten to fifteen grandchildren as the whole class called her Grandma.

CLC noted that we don't enjoy going through difficult things, but our trials become testimonies for someone else: "If you haven't been through it, you're just talking in theory. You can't really come alongside someone and give them hope and be a living testimony of what Christ can do unless you went through it." Each person has unique trials that prepare them to help specific people in their lives who will face similar struggles.

The group also discussed how remembering our own journey from "dirt" to transformation keeps us from judging others who are still in their "kimberlite" stage—encased in the rough rock, not yet polished and ready for display. As the video teaching emphasized, "We value diamonds when they're on display at Tiffany's, but they're no less valuable when they're a mile deep in the ground." Every woman is in process, and recognizing this in ourselves enables us to extend grace and hope to others.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Why should kingdom women share their testimonies with others?

Brittany: To share hope. The only hope we have in this life is through Jesus Christ. When we share what He's done for us, it restores people's hope. But not outside of Christ—there literally is no hope outside of Christ. Anything else is a lie, fabricated, temporary. When we share our witness, especially with those in the same situations, it gives them hope that they can be restored, and their hope will be to Jesus Christ.

Irene: I think God always prepares somebody else to meet somebody that's been through the same thing you've been through, so you can let them know how you came through, and He can do it for them.

CLC: We don't like to go through things, but it really becomes a testimony for someone else. If you haven't been through it, you're just talking in theory. You can't really come alongside someone and give them hope unless you went through it yourself.

Irene: After my grandchildren died, people would ask me, "How did you make it?" And God put me in a church family where I lost four grandchildren and ended up with ten or fifteen grandkids—the whole class was calling me Grandma. He'll make a way for you. And now I can talk about it and don't even get upset anymore. I take it as a blessing.

Brittany: Praise the Lord for His peace and comfort that surpasses all understanding. The fact that those words can escape your lips with love and understanding is a miracle.

Prayer Request: Witnessing to a Neighbor

CLC shared that she needed to end the meeting promptly at 8:30 because she had an appointment to visit her neighbor Kathy. Kathy's husband John had suffered a stroke, and during treatment, doctors discovered he had stage 4 lung cancer that had metastasized to his brain. Because Kathy waited too long to call for help when John's symptoms began, there was nothing doctors could do for the stroke damage. John now sometimes recognizes people and sometimes doesn't, and is mixing up his two sons.

CLC explained that she and Kathy were friendly neighbors who exercised together at the gym and occasionally had coffee, but had never discussed spiritual matters deeply. CLC had noticed Kathy displayed a pride flag and participated in social justice marches, indicating liberal political views, though Kathy herself was not gay but simply supportive. Not knowing where Kathy stood spiritually, CLC texted to ask if she could bring a booklet called "Someone Cares" with Bible verses and prayers for difficult times.

CLC's text said: "I know we never talk deeply about spiritual matters, but I know you know that I am a believer. I intend only to encourage you with a sense of hope and God's love. If you decline, I respect that, and we'll just keep right on respecting each other as we always have." Kathy responded that CLC was welcome to bring the booklet, and when CLC said she might have to come the next day due to her Zoom call, Kathy replied, "You can come tonight after 9 if that's not too late for you."

CLC was encouraged by Kathy's openness and asked the group to pray for her witness to Kathy that night, for John's salvation and health, and for a moment of clarity for John to be able to accept Christ. Christy, who works in healthcare, explained that stage 4 lung cancer that has metastasized has about a 10-20% five-year survival rate, and adding a stroke on top makes the prognosis even more difficult. However, she noted that even with significant brain damage, John could still understand what he hears, as hearing is often the last sense to go.

Stacia prayed specifically for "a moment of clarity that he can accept Christ—it doesn't take long, just a moment of clarity." The group affirmed that nothing is too hard for God and that

they would continue praying for this situation.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Please pray for my witness to Kathy tonight, and for John's health and salvation for both of them.

Stacia: Even more specifically, let him have a moment of clarity that he can accept Christ. It doesn't take long, just a moment of clarity.

CLC: I've always heard that hearing is the last to go with someone, so you should still speak to them. Just because his speech isn't coming out right doesn't mean his heart can't understand.

Christy: He can still understand, absolutely. Once cancer is stage 4 and metastasized, the survival rate for five years is about 10-20%. Adding a stroke on top really makes it difficult. But I remember a young, healthy nurse who got shortness of breath, they did an x-ray, found lung cancer that had already metastasized, and she survived a long time because she was otherwise healthy.

Closing Reflections on Humility and God's Presence

As the session drew to a close, Brittany offered extended reflections on the theme of humility that had emerged throughout the discussion. She noted that humility is "such a bittersweet lesson that the Lord is continuously showing us. It is not always our favorite place to be, but it's such a beautiful place to be because His presence is there. It's like He's telling you, 'Yeah, I know I just showed you something that's hard for you to accept about yourself, but guess what? I love you, I'm here, and just stay with me. I'm gonna build you up into the woman that I am building you to be.'"

Brittany shared that the more she sits in humility with God, the more she wants to stay there: "I don't mind being wrong, I just want to be in His presence, I just want to be blameless. I just want to be found the way that He desires to find us all. So if that means ego, pride, flesh, reputation, feelings—all those things have to die—then the Lord is going to usher us into that life of suffering with Him in such a loving, kind way."

She connected this back to the Samaritan woman, noting that the woman went and told everyone, "I have found a man who told me everything about myself." Brittany emphasized, "Baby, He didn't say too many good things about you at that well, but she was so intrigued and happy still. She was so excited even though He had just given her herself—showed her her real self."

Irene added that the woman "was relieved that somebody knew what she had done. She was relieved to get it out." This relief and freedom meant she could now return to the well at any time and talk to anyone, whereas before she had been hiding in shame, possibly avoiding women whose husbands she had been involved with. After encountering Jesus, "she was like, 'Let me go to the well!' He put me out there, so here I am."

Brittany concluded: "Let it all hang out, knowing that something better is coming on because you released it. Now you got room for a different narrative to come and take place." CLC summarized: "She encountered the truth, the living Word, and so what can stand against that? What can separate you from the love of God? Nothing."

The session ended with Brittany leading the group in prayer, asking God to search their hearts and remove any bitterness, unforgiveness, or resentment; to strengthen their faith; to go before them and correct their crooked places; to give them a heart posture of repentance; and to help them remember who they are and who they belong to as they fight the good fight of faith.

Relevant Q&A

Brittany: What I've been noticing is the more I sit in humility with God, the more I want to stay there. I just want to be in His presence, blameless, found the way He desires to find us all. If that means ego, pride, flesh, reputation, feelings all have to die, then the Lord will usher us into that life of suffering with Him in such a loving, kind way.

CLC: You're emphasizing that it's important to know God, but also to know yourself and understand yourself. You have to have a right view of yourself to really have an intimate relationship with the Lord. Otherwise you just know about Him. But when you see yourself right, you see your own need for Him more, and then you're closer to Him. If you don't see yourself right, you may not see your own need for Him, and then you're like the religious leaders.

Brittany: Look at what the Samaritan woman did—she went and said, "I have found a man who told me everything about myself." He didn't say too many good things about her at that well, but she was so intrigued and happy still. She was so excited even though He had just given her herself.

Irene: She was relieved that somebody knew what she had done. She was relieved to get it out. Now she could go back to the well and talk to anybody, because God had already revealed to her what she was doing. Before, she didn't want to go because she might have met one of those other women's husbands. But now, "Let me go to the well!"

CLC: She's free now. She was walking in shame and hiding, and now she's like, "He saw everything, this is who I am." She encountered the truth, the living Word, and what can stand

against that? What can separate you from the love of God? Nothing.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Watch the Kingdom Woman video for Chapter 2 independently before the next session
- Complete the remaining discussion questions on pages 24 and following in the Kingdom Woman study guide
- Continue praying for CLC's neighbor Kathy and her husband John, specifically for their salvation and for John to have moments of clarity
- Pray for Stacia as she continues going through difficult times, asking for God's strength, comfort, peace, and deliverance even while in the midst of trials
- Reflect personally on areas where you may be presenting a "surface" version of yourself to God rather than being completely honest about root issues
- Consider your own testimony and be prepared to share it with others who may be facing similar struggles

Supplemental Resources

- Kingdom Woman video study, Chapter 2: "The Making of a Kingdom Woman" (to be distributed via link by Sister Melissa)
- Kingdom Woman study guide with discussion questions (page 23-24 covered in this session)
- "Someone Cares" booklet with Bible verses and prayers for difficult times (mentioned as resource for witnessing)
- Key Scripture passages referenced: John 4:1-42 (Samaritan woman at the well), James 5:7 (farmer waiting patiently), Psalm 40:2 (brought up from the pit), Psalm 139:13-14 (fearfully and wonderfully made), Romans 3:23 (all have sinned), Romans 12:3 (think of yourself with sober judgment), 2 Peter 3:9 (the Lord is patient), Isaiah 30:18 (the Lord waits to show mercy), Luke 12:7 (hairs of your head are numbered), 2 Corinthians 5:20 (ambassadors for Christ), Genesis 2:7 (formed from dust), Genesis 3:19 (return to dust)