



Life Changing Conversations

John 4:1-26

**WE USUALLY LISTEN ONLY
LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW
WHERE SOMEONE WENT
WRONG, AND NOT LONG
ENOUGH TO KNOW WHY
THEY THINK THEY ARE RIGHT.**

One of the greatest barriers to building trust is the assumptions we make of the person we are talking to



O my people, listen to my instructions.
Open your ears to what I am saying,
for I will speak to you in a parable.
I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—
stories we have heard and known,
stories our ancestors handed down to us.
We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the LORD,
about his power and his mighty wonders.



PS 78:1-4

For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel.
He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children,
so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.

So each generation should set its hope anew on God,
not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.

Then they will not be like their ancestors—
stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful,
refusing to give their hearts to God.



PS 78:5-8

DO NOT...

1. Lose focus or interest
2. Generalise or trivialise
3. Jump to conclusions
4. Hijack the conversation
5. Teach (information), preach (motivation) or fix (solution)
6. Argue or go on a crusade
7. Change the subject



IF YOU CAN DO THAT, THEN...

1. Don't do lateral topics, go deep!
2. Ask follow-up questions (Tell me more...)
3. Don't be afraid of silence
4. Practice giving the gift of your presence
(Facial expressions, affirming cues, attention...)
5. Have humility to learn and journey together
6. Welcome emotions and even tears
7. Affirm the process, let them lead,
encourage the next faithful step



IF THEY WILL TALK TO YOU, THEN

1. Affirm them often, and generously
2. Always affirm who they are, not what they do
3. Also affirm what they do, every chance you get
4. Earn the right to teach when they ask you a question
5. Steward the gift of their trust. Do not share w others
6. Do not use it against them. Lose trust
7. Constantly encourage
8. Be attentive to daily change and respond
9. Be humble and apologise often
10. Be bold to share failure and pain



YOUNGER GENERATION CAN BE A BRIDGE

- 1. Listen to their heart, now just words**
- 2. They cannot give what they don't have**
- 3. Their priorities may be radically different but valid**
- 4. Their approach may not reflect your worth to them**
- 5. Love is shown differently, but may be as strong**
- 6. Where they are lacking, cover them**
- 7. Where they are weak, affirm them**
- 8. Where they are unable, carry them**



LISTENING EXERCISE

1. Break up into groups of 3
2. For each 5 min round, take turns to be:
 - a. the one who shares
 - b. the listener and
 - c. the observer
3. Please share something from your life!
4. After the 5 mins, the observer gives feedback to the others on when and how good listening happened



Life Changing Conversations with Jesus



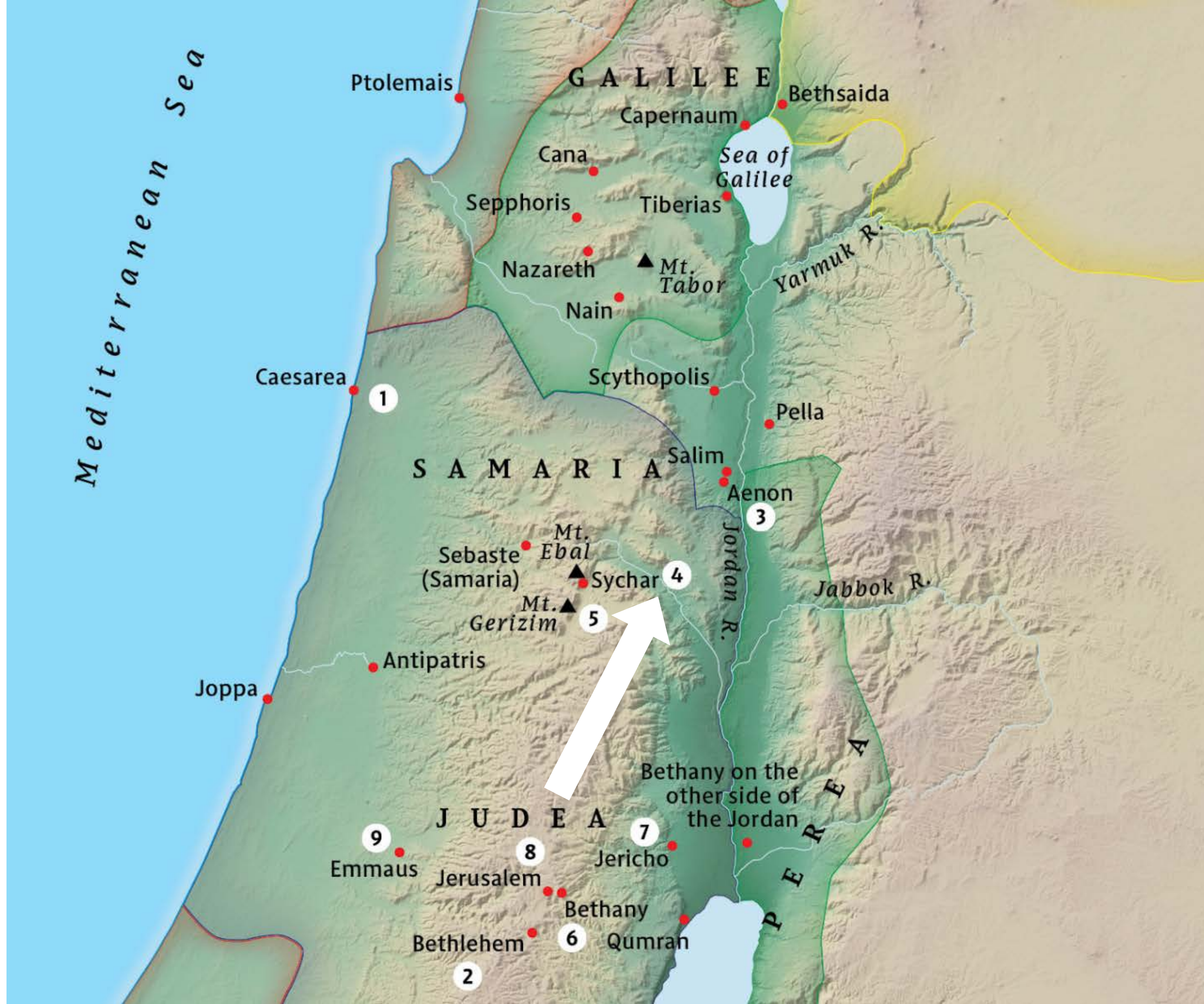
John 4:1-26

So then, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were), He left Judea and went away again to Galilee.

And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.



John 4:1-6



John 4:1-6

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble —burned as they are?”



Samaritan Opposition to the Rebuilding

Neh 4:1-2

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John 4:1-6

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.



So the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, though You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, though I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)



Conversational Engagement

John 4:1-26

Jesus replied to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”



She said to Him, “Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?”



Contrast Spiritual/Natural

John 4:1-26

Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”



The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water.”



Connect to Spiritual Truth

John 4:1-26

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”



Rivers of Living Water

John 7:37-38

He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.”

The woman answered and said to Him, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true.”



Connect to Spiritual Insight and Compassion

John 4:1-26

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.



Prophecy

1 Cor 14:1, 3-4

But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"



Prophecy

1 Cor 14:24-25

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Connect to Spiritual Insight and Compassion

John 4:1-26

The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship.”



Connect with Spiritual Discussion

John 4:1-26

Jesus said to her, “Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”



Connect with Spiritual Declaration

John 4:1-26

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I am He, the One speaking to you.”



Connect with God

John 4:1-26

And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What are You seeking?” or, “Why are You speaking with her?”



So the woman left her waterpot and went into the city, and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?” They left the city and were coming to Him.



Conviction and Commission

John 4:27-30

Conversational Engagement

Contrast Spiritual/Natural

Connect to Spiritual Truth

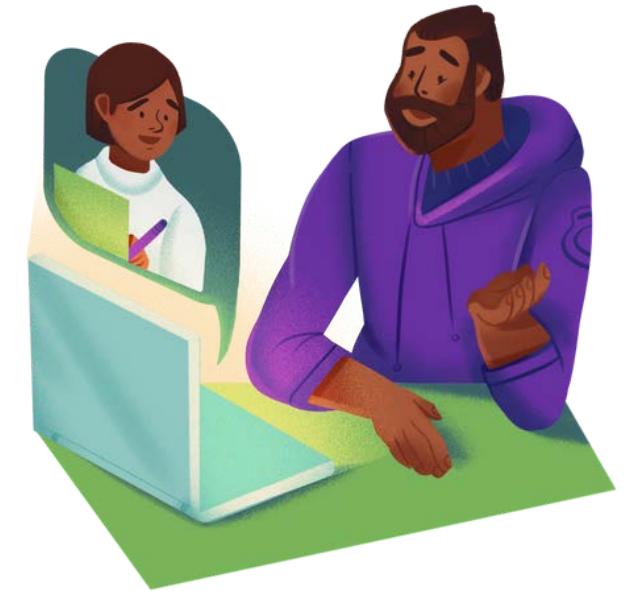
Connect to Spiritual Insight and Compassion

Connect with Spiritual Discussion

Connect with Spiritual Declaration

Connect with God

Conviction and Commission



John 4:1-30

1. Do you feel the Lord is seeking you today? He wants you to know He is God and He loves you



2. Are you reminded of those in need? Those who have backslidden, or don't feel worthy to come to God, or who feel condemned? God wants to send you to them



3. Are you desiring to bring Jesus to people? God is filling us with His Holy Spirit to empower us to be a witness of who He is



John 4:1-26

Response

Help us to be led by the Spirit to people

Help us open up our hearts to them

Help us to listen well and be bold to pray/speak

Help us engage their pain and point them to God

Help us tell them the good news of Jesus

Give us the joy of seeing them come alive and to tell others too!

