Live Out His Love

Experience & Share the Compassion of Jesus for Women

A Study of New Testament Women

MELANIE NEWTON
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Using This Study Guide

This study guide consists of 11 lessons covering the lives of 16 women in New Testament history. For those who are not familiar with the culture of the New Testament, each lesson includes brief historical insights into the culture relevant to the lesson.

The lessons are divided into 4 daily sections (about 20 minutes in length). The goal is to help you establish a regular time of study in the Word for 5 days each week, considering your small group session to be one of those days. If you cannot do the entire lesson one week, please read the Bible passage being covered.

The Basic Study

This study guide consists of 11 lessons. If you cannot do the entire lesson one week, please read the Bible passage(s) being covered.

Process of Bible Study: Each lesson includes core questions covering the narrative associated with each woman’s life. These core questions will take you through the process of inductive Bible study—observation, interpretation, and application. The process is more easily understood in the context of answering these questions:

- What does the passage say? (Observation: what’s actually there)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation: the author’s intended meaning) Many of the questions are interpretation questions.
- How does this apply to me today? (Application: making it personal) Live Out His Love questions lead you to introspection and application of a specific truth to your life. Pray and Love questions direct you to commit to praying for and planning ways to intentionally connect with unbelievers in your sphere of influence. At least one question in each lesson will help you learn how to share your faith with others. This is called “Disciple-making.”

Study Enhancements

Deeper Discoveries (optional): Embedded within the sections are optional questions for further research of subjects we don’t have time to cover adequately in the lessons or contain information that significantly enhance the basic study. If you are meeting with a small group, your leader may give you the opportunity to share your “discoveries.”

Study Aids: To aid in proper interpretation and application of the study, additional study aids are located where appropriate in the lesson:
- Historical Insights
- Scriptural Insights
- From the Greek (definitions of Greek words)
- Focus on the Meaning
- Think About It (thoughtful reflection)

Podcasts

Find podcasts coordinating with these lessons at melanienewton.com/podcasts. Follow along with the “Podcast Listener Guides” for each lesson.
Discussion Group Guidelines

1. **Attend consistently** whether your lesson is done or not. You'll learn from the other women, and they want to get to know you.

2. **Set aside time** to work through the study questions. The goal of Bible study is to **get to know** Jesus. He will change your life.

3. **Share your insights** from your personal study time. As you spend time in the Bible, Jesus will teach you truth through His Spirit inside you.

4. **Respect each other's insights**. Listen thoughtfully. Encourage each other as you interact. Refrain from dominating the discussion if you have a tendency to be talkative.

5. **Celebrate our unity** in Christ. Avoid bringing up controversial subjects such as politics, divisive issues, and denominational differences.

6. **Maintain confidentiality**. Remember that anything shared during the group time is not to leave the group (unless permission is granted by the one sharing).

7. **Pray for one another** as sisters in Christ.

8. **Get to know the women** in your group. Please do not use your small group members for solicitation purposes for home businesses, though.

What Happened before New Testament Times

During the exile from their homeland (605-538 BC), the people of Israel living in Babylonian territory (modern Iraq) were cut off from the temple and surrounded by pagan religious practices, so they focused on what they had retained—the Law (the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch or the Torah) and the belief that they were still God's people. Personal piety and prayer replaced the sacrifices now denied to them. The new center of worship became the local synagogue (similar to a church community). As a result, Judaism became a faith that could be practiced wherever the Torah could be carried. This helped to preserve Judaism but also prepared the way for the Christian gospel. The Diaspora (dispersion) of Israel begun in the exile, accelerated during the years that followed so that by Jesus' time Jews filled every land and sea. Jews living outside the land of Israel concentrated their religious life in the study of the Torah and the life of the synagogue. The missionaries of the early church began their outreach ministries among the Diaspora, using the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Within many Jewish synagogue congregations were “God-fearing” Gentiles (anyone who was not a Jew)—those who believed in the Jewish God and followed the Law to some extent but not fully.

After the exile, Israel ceased to be an independent nation and became a minor territory in a succession of larger empires—Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman. The rulers were often ruthless against the Jews and continually tried to force idolatry on the Jewish people. When Rome took over in 63 BC, the conquering general massacred priests in the performance of their duties and entered the Most Holy Place. This atrocity began Roman rule in a way that Jews could neither forgive nor forget! Herod, a non-Jew, was appointed king by the Roman Senate in 40 BC, but he was subject to Rome.

During this time period, a religious group later known as the Pharisees formed to keep Israel pure from idolatry, promoting the keeping of the Law as the only way that the Jews would be able to live righteously before God in a world that had changed drastically since the days of Moses. Though few in number, they enjoyed the support of the people and were the only party to survive the destruction of the temple in AD 70, thus being the spiritual progenitors of modern Judaism.
New Testament Summary

The New Testament opens with the births of John and Jesus. About 30 years later, John challenged the Jews to indicate their repentance (turning from sin and toward God) by submitting to water baptism—a familiar Old Testament practice used for repentance as well as when a Gentile converted to Judaism (to be washed clean of idolatry).

Jesus, God's incarnate Son, publicly showed the world what God is like and taught His perfect ways for 3 – 3½ years. After preparing 12 disciples to continue Christ's earthly work, He died voluntarily on a cross for mankind's sin, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven. The account of His earthly life is recorded in 4 books known as the Gospels (the biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John named after the compiler of each account).

After Jesus' return to heaven, the followers of Christ were then empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread God's salvation message among the Jews, a number of whom believed in Christ. The apostle Paul and others carried the good news to the Gentiles during 3 missionary journeys (much of this recorded in the book of Acts). Paul wrote 13 New Testament letters to churches & individuals (Romans through Philemon). The section in our Bible from Hebrews to Jude contains 8 additional letters penned by five men, including two apostles (Peter and John) and two of Jesus' half-brothers (James and Jude). The author of Hebrews is unknown. The apostle John also recorded Revelation, which summarizes God's final program for the world. The Bible ends as it began—with a new, sinless creation.

New Testament Timeline

No one is certain of the dates of Jesus' birth or death so the years given below are best guesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historical Period</th>
<th>Years AD</th>
<th>Woman Studied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesus' Lifetime &amp; Ministry</td>
<td>4 BC – 33 AD</td>
<td>Samaritan Woman, Immoral Woman, Adulterous Woman, Sick Woman &amp; Dead Girl, Canaanite Woman, Crippled Woman, Widow of Nain, Mary &amp; Martha, Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Early Church</td>
<td>33 – 65 AD</td>
<td>Tabitha, Lydia, Priscilla, Phoebe</td>
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</tbody>
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Israel’s Political and Religious Authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rome</th>
<th>[defense, taxes, criminal courts]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>[religious &amp; civil matters]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanhedrin</td>
<td>[71 elders]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadducees</td>
<td>comfortable compromisers politicians, merchants, materialists, &gt;20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Priests</td>
<td>elected ordained +temple officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scribes</td>
<td>affluent academics interpreted Mosaic Law &quot;secrecy&quot; and pride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharisees</td>
<td>pompous perfectionists Mosaic Law=oral traditions pride and scorn, ~6000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Live Out His Love

The Lord Jesus demonstrated in His life on earth how much He loved and valued women. He taught, forgave, accepted, and gave new life to them. Because His care for them was so countercultural to what they had previously known, women responded with love for Him and a desire to serve Him. Many of them had walks of faith that brought challenges as well as times of joy. They focused on following Jesus and serving Him in their daily lives, sharing His love with others so they could benefit from Jesus’ great love for women, also. Jesus Christ entered into the midst of their lives, visibly representing God to them, loving them dearly, and changing their lives forever! He does the same for you and me today.

Today, many women like you and I are longing for more direction in our walks of faith than attending a weekly Bible study and the annual Christmas brunch. That longing is a desire put in our hearts by God’s Spirit to fulfill the purpose we have while on earth serving the Lord Jesus in our daily lives. That purpose is to live for Him, experience His love for us, and share His love with others around us.

Jesus is calling us! His commission to His followers to share the good news about Him with others is given to everyday people like you and I are, to be fulfilled in the everyday world in which each of us “lives and moves and has our being” (Acts 17:28). Since Jesus is the one calling you to join Him on mission every day, then He will enable you to do what He asks you to do. Learn from Him how to make disciples. And, it might even be fun!

My heart’s desire is to encourage you through this study to have an authentic, loving relationship with Jesus Christ for yourself so that you are willing to share that experience with others around you.

Just relax, trust in Him, and begin an adventure that will transform your life and others as well. Are you ready for adventure? It’s going to be a great journey. And, I’m so glad to be walking beside you!

Melanie
Recommended: Listen to the podcast “New Testament Women Learn How Jesus Satisfies Our Hearts” at melanienewton.com/podcasts as an introduction to the whole study.

New Testament Women Learn How Jesus Satisfies Our Hearts

Only God can satisfy a spiritually thirsty heart.

A relationship with another human cannot satisfy a spiritually thirsty heart. Only God can. And, His plan to do that included coming to earth to take on a human body and live as a human among us. Enter Jesus, the one who demonstrated God’s love for women.

Jesus demonstrated God’s love for women

• Jesus Christ entered into the midst of His Jewish culture, influenced by Greek and Roman traditions, with a radically different value system in the way He regarded women. His compassion for women elevated their position in society and gave them equal relationship with Him.

• How Jesus was radically different from His culture:
  ➢ Speaking to women publicly when a rabbi wouldn't speak publicly to his wife.
  ➢ Letting them travel with Him and support Him with their own money.
  ➢ Teaching women openly when the rabbis didn’t consider them able to be educated.
  ➢ Defending them when they were criticized.
  ➢ Acting with compassion toward women in healing their loved ones.
  ➢ Making them the first witnesses to His resurrection to spread the good news.

• Jesus never spoke condescendingly to women, never made derogatory jokes about them, nor did He ever humiliate them. Women who knew Him loved Him, wanted to follow and serve Him.

Jesus is the one who understands women

• As Creator, He designed us with a mind to know God, emotions to love God, and a will to obey God. We are designed with a mind to know God, emotions to love God, and a will to obey God. That comes in the package we receive at birth.

• Our female minds need to be filled with the knowledge of Him so that our hearts may respond with great love for Him and our wills can choose to obey Him.

• Jesus knows us backwards and forwards. He knows our emotional nature, our need for security and significance, and even our hormones! He understands our need to nurture and to be loved—both from those humans closest to us and from our Creator God.
• **Here’s a key truth I want you to grasp.** A relationship with Jesus satisfies every spiritual need that you have. Every single one of them. You don’t need to go anywhere else to get those deep needs satisfied.

**Jesus is the one who meets our spiritual needs**

> “Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)

• Do you need forgiveness? Jesus does that. Do you need healing and hope for dire circumstances? Jesus does that. Do you feel like you are in spiritual bondage? Jesus can free you from that. Do you need assurance that you are loved? Jesus crowns you with His love and compassion. To be crowned with compassion means to be surrounded with it so that you have a sense of God’s favor and protection. A satisfied heart can go forward with complete assurance that our God knows how to love you well!

• God promises to satisfy your heart’s desires with good things. You will be so satisfied that you will feel renewed and released to soar like an eagle. And, He fills us with everything we need to feel satisfied.

Our God created us with a spiritual thirst for a relationship with Him. A relationship with another human cannot satisfy that thirst. Only God can satisfy the thirsty heart.

> “He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” (Psalm 107:9)

*Let Jesus satisfy your heart with the goodness of His love. Then, live out that love.*
Outcast Women—Identified by Lifestyle

Lesson 1: A Samaritan Woman

Time Period: Jesus’ First Year of Ministry, ~30 AD

Day One Study

The quest for fulfillment became the driving force behind women of the ‘80s and ‘90s. As women tuned into the highly mobile, high-tech society around them, they begin to turn their energies to new frontiers. To excel, to succeed, even to surpass the accomplishments of their male counterparts, has been the goal of many women who have challenged men’s domain. Now, however, as women examine who they have become, many are wondering where they really belong. It has become painfully clear that achievement and success have not delivered the payoff of personal fulfillment that women have sought. In the brief reflective spaces sandwiched between their frenzied commitments, women are now realizing that external accomplishments do not meet their deepest inner longings. So the search for fulfillment continues.

The desire to find continuity and meaning draws women toward the spiritual arena, where cults are flourishing. As believers, we know that only Jesus can fill the void in a woman’s life. What women desperately need today is exposure to vital Christianity.

All of us rub shoulders with a variety of women every day—women with whom we share a coffee or lunch break, mothers who trade off car-pooling children, neighbors, and friends. They all need to know the answers to these questions, “Who is Jesus Christ?” and “Why did He come?” They also need the answer to “How did He treat women?” and “How can women know Him today?”

To fully appreciate Jesus’ approach to women, we need to resist our impulse to approach Scripture from our twenty-first century cultural perspective. Our understanding of Scripture is more accurate if we step back in time—into the shoes of the women of the first century AD.

Connecting with New Testament Women

If you have limited knowledge of the New Testament, those women who lived so long ago may be strangers to you. When you read the gospels, you can easily think, “What’s written in it happened so long ago! What do those women have in common with me? They didn’t live in my world.” Yet, they were still women like you and I are.

As everyday women, they cooked meals, did laundry, and raised children. They had responsibilities inside and outside of their homes, including home businesses. They experienced hormone fluctuations and menopause. They laughed with their friends, differed with their mates, and cried when a loved one died. I bet they all found ways to use their 20,000 words per day. 😊

At one time, they were 20-somethings, then 40-somethings, then 60-somethings and more. They wore beads, earrings, and ankle bracelets. Their hair needed to be combed and fixed, and it turned grey as they aged. No doubt, some of them, if not all, had something on their bodies that sagged!

These women also experienced fear at various times just like we do. They faced rejection from peers, sick family members, and disappointments. They faced trauma and surprise houseguests. They even had “bad” days when things didn’t go right, sometimes due to their own choices. These were everyday women, just like we are. Their stories—snippets of their biographies—are preserved for us to get to know them.
Life for Women in Jesus' Time (You’ll get more information throughout the lessons.)

What was it like to be a woman living around the rim of the Mediterranean during Jesus’ time? Imagine a time when a man was commended because he killed his wife for appearing in public without her veil and when a Roman woman’s rights were completely subject to her father’s power. If she married, then those rights, even the power of life and death, were transferred to her husband. Think of what it would have been like to bear and raise a son who would receive more esteem from his father and the rest of society than you would as his mother.

In both Greek and Roman cultures, women held a second-rate status. Their legal rights were practically nonexistent. In fact, only a husband could petition for a divorce. In such a society, permissive polygamy was considered normal—for men. The owning of multiple women was an indication of wealth. Needless to say, such a practice only further relegated women to an inferior position since they were treated like property, a mere commodity to indicate status or position.

Jewish women fared only slightly better than their contemporaries in surrounding cultures. A married woman with children did hold a certain place of honor as a wife and mother, but even that position was tied to her ability to produce male children. Because of a twisted interpretation of the Mosaic Law, the rabbinical leaders taught that women were uneducable. They were considered unreliable as courtroom witnesses. Women were even held responsible for the lustful temptations men suffered.

As the radical rabbi, Jesus treated women as no man had ever treated them before. His warmth, personal attention, tenderness, sound teaching, and compassion toward women were revolutionary. He openly demonstrated His love for each individual He met—both men and women—for whom He would ultimately die.

Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you through His Word.


2. Read John 4:1-6. What information do you glean from vv. 1-3?

Historical Insight: To go through Samaria “was the shortest route from Judea to Galilee but not the only way. The other route was through Perea, east of the Jordan River...In Jesus' day, the Jews, because of their hatred for the Samaritans, normally took the eastern route in order to avoid Samaria.” (Walvoord and Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament, pp. 284-285.)
3. Find Samaria on the map. In light of the verses you just read and the Historical Insight above, why would Jesus travel through Samaria?

4. **Deeper Discoveries (optional):** Use a commentary, study notes or the internet to answer this: Why was there such animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans? What were the social consequences of traveling through Samaria?

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**Day Two Study**

Read John 4:4-26. Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you through His Word.

5. Describe the Samaritan woman through what is revealed about her in this text.

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**Historical Insight:** “A Rabbinic law of AD 66 stated that Samaritan women were considered as continually menstruating and thus unclean. Therefore, a Jew who drank from a Samaritan woman’s vessel would become ceremonially unclean...The normal prejudices of the day prohibited public conversation between men and women, between Jews and Samaritans, and especially between strangers. A Jewish Rabbi would rather go thirsty than violate these proprieties.” (Walvoord and Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament*, p. 285.)

6. How did Jesus begin a relationship with this woman?
Scriptural Insight: Jesus being truly human, experienced thirst, weariness, pain, and hunger. ... He also possesses all the attributes of Deity (all-knowing and all-powerful). (Walvoord and Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament, page 285.)

   - What does the phrase "living water" symbolize?

   - What does the word "drink" symbolize?

   - Therefore, what is Jesus saying to her?

   - How does she respond?

8. Live Out His Love: What do/did you seek to satisfy your built-in spiritual thirst? If our God created us with a spiritual thirst for a relationship with Him (as the Bible declares), can a relationship with another human satisfy that thirst? Explain your answer.
Day Three Study
Read John 4:7-26. Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you through His Word.

9. How and why does Jesus change the subject in vv. 16-18? (What attribute of God is He displaying here? See John 2:25.)

10. How and why does the Samaritan woman change the subject in vv. 19-26?

11. How does Jesus use her detour to declare truth about worship and about Himself?

*From the Greek:* The title “Christ” given to Jesus is from the Greek word *christos*, a translation of the Hebrew term “Messiah” meaning “anointed one.” The Old Testament prophets promised that the Messiah, as the anointed one of God, would come and do many wonderful things for God’s people, including restoring God’s Kingdom on earth. Christians are followers of Jesus, who is the Christ.

12. What similarities do you find between this conversation & Jesus’ conversation w/ Nicodemus (Day One Study)?
Day Four Study

Read John 4:27-42. Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you through His Word.

13. How did the Samaritan woman initially respond to Jesus and his invitation to her (verses 27-30)?

14. What does Jesus say to get His disciples on board with His mission in Samaria (verses 31-38)?

15. How did this woman’s new faith in Jesus impact her peers? What did they urge Jesus to do?

16. Read John 3:16-17; John 6:38,40 and John 14:9. Who did Jesus say He is and for what reason had He come?

17. Live Out His Love: If you have not made the decision to believe that Jesus is who He says He is—God’s Son—and that by believing you have eternal life through trusting in Him, you can put your trust in Him today and experience His love for you right away. If you do this, tell someone. If you are still unsure, ask Jesus to reveal Himself through the truth of His Word. Ask someone to meet with you and answer questions you might have.
18. **Pray & Love**: Where are those women in your life who have not experienced Jesus’ love yet? Where do you frequently see them? Start with where you are presently connected (school, work, gym, neighborhood, sports teams, your children’s friends, community activities). Some you think are unbelievers may be Christians who have never been discipled so their lives look like those of unbelievers.

Pray for each one whenever you think about or see her.

Example: “Father, please send the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of __________ (fill in her name) to draw her to Jesus so she will trust in Him.”

Ask Jesus to give you His love and compassion for her and to help you understand what she is feeling and needing from Him. How can you make the most of your connection to build a relationship with at least one woman?

Commit to make the most of any connection you have to build a relationship with her and show Jesus’ love and compassion to her.

This next week, trust in Jesus to lead you to begin an intentional relationship with her so you can share Jesus’ love with her.

See the “Pray & Love List” bookmark in the Resources Section. Snap a picture of it or make a copy to use as you pray and love those the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

19. **Live Out His Love**: Have you already trusted in Jesus to be your Savior? Think about your story of following Jesus and answer the questions below that fit your experience.

- If you trusted in Jesus as a teen or an adult: What was life like for you before knowing Jesus? What triggered your need for Jesus? What did God use to draw you to Him? That may be how God will use you to reach others.

- If you trusted in Jesus as a child, then drifted away from Him but later returned: What did God use to draw you back to Him? That may be how God will use you to reach others for Christ.

- If you trusted in Jesus as a child and kept faithful to Him choosing while a teen or young adult to follow Him as a disciple: What kept you faithful? What did God use to keep you drawn to Himself? [Note: Every parent wants this for their child.]
Think About It: Consider the disciples’ behavior in this incident (v. 27). Do you allow racial, cultural or religious barriers to keep you from sharing Jesus’ love with other people? Consider what life is like for those around you who have not experienced His love yet. Ask Jesus to give you love for them and to help you understand what they are feeling and needing from Him. Stepping into their lives to build intentional friendships is a means of displaying Jesus’ love and compassion to them.

Recommended: Listen to the podcast “Samaritan Woman: Jesus Satisfies Your Heart with Truth” after doing this lesson to reinforce what you have learned. Use the listener guide on the next page.
Samaritan Woman: Jesus Satisfies Your Heart with Truth

Jesus wants us to know the truth about Him (John 14:6).

On the night before His trial and crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples that He was going there to prepare a place for them, and they could follow because they knew the way to get there. But one of His disciples named Thomas wasn’t so sure about this. So, Thomas asked Jesus, “How can we know the way?” Jesus answered with a strong declaration of truth,

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

We can confidently say this: Jesus is the way to know God as Father because He shows us the truth about God in His life, and He gives His life to anyone who believes in Him.

Jesus is the WAY to know God as the Father.

Shortly after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension back to Heaven, one of Jesus’ followers named Peter confidently declared to the religious leaders of Jerusalem,

“Salvation is found in no one else [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

- The first Christians were so convinced of Jesus being the only way to know God and taught this truth everywhere so they were called “followers of the way.” As a “follower of the way,” the apostle Paul traveled extensively preaching that Jesus is the way to know God, the way to receive forgiveness for your sins, and the way to live a life that pleases God. Anyone who asked him, “How can I know God?” Paul would answer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.” He’s the WAY.

- Only one man died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins: Jesus. Only one man was ever resurrected from the dead with a new body that will never die again: Jesus. Only Jesus was truly God. Anyone who believes in Jesus can now have forgiveness of their sins and a relationship with God.

- No other religious leader has ever been resurrected from the dead, and they are all in their graves. Jesus is not in His grave. He was resurrected from the grave, given a new body, and is sitting in Heaven on His kingly throne ready to welcome you and me when we trust in Him.

- Jesus is the only way for any person to have a relationship with God. You have to start with that and believe that.

Jesus is the TRUTH. He shows us the truth about God.

“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.” (John 14:7)

- When Jesus was on earth, He showed everyone the truth about God the Father. Jesus was loving and kind, showing us God is loving and kind. Jesus was always good, showing
us that God is always good. Jesus showed us that God answers prayer and that God hates sin. Jesus was the living truth of God.

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

• Knowing the truth will set you free from error, misconceptions, and bondage to lies that have prevented you from having a satisfying relationship with God in your life. Jesus was the truth of God back then and is still the truth of God. Truth never changes.

Jesus is the LIFE. He gives eternal life to anyone who believes in Him.

• Eternal life starts the moment you believe in Jesus. It can never end. And, no one can take it away from you!

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die....” (John 11:25)

• Even though your body dies, your soul lives on in Heaven where you will one day receive a new body just like Jesus’ new body, one that will never die again. That’s eternal life. But, when Jesus said He is the life, He meant even more than that. Paul describes this beautifully in Galatians 2...

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

• As part of God’s family, God’s Spirit comes to live inside you and enables you to live a life that pleases God your Father. He changes the way you think and feel to be more like the way Jesus thought and felt when He was on earth. Jesus is the truth that satisfies.

Our God created us with a spiritual thirst for a relationship with Him. Another human cannot satisfy that thirst. Only God can satisfy the thirsty heart. As the Bible promises,

“for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” (Psalm 107:9)

Jesus satisfied the Samaritan woman’s heart with truth about God. Jesus satisfies your heart with truth about God as well. A satisfied heart can stand firmly on the truth that brings real life and real love and fulfilling relationships to you.

Let Jesus satisfy your heart with the goodness of His love. Then, live out that love.