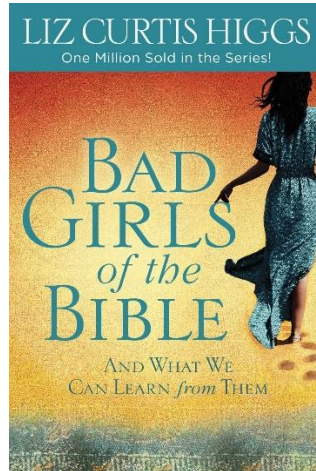


*Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs* on the Faith Radio Network  
Bible Study Guide for January 6-7, 2018 | The Woman at the Well  
from *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. When the woman at the well is introduced in John 4:7, we're told her gender and her nationality, but not told her name. Why might that be? Read John 10:14. Did Jesus know her name? According to Psalm 139:13-16, how well does God know His created beings? Does the omission of the Samaritan woman's name make her real-life story more or less believable to you? More or less powerful? Why?
2. She came looking for water but instead found Jesus. Read John 4:6-9. Was their meeting at the well a coincidence — or a “God-incidence”? What leads you to this conclusion? What do the following verses tell us about the paths our lives take: Proverbs 16:9; Jeremiah 10:23; Job 31:4? How might those verses comfort or encourage you today?
3. Check out the sudden shift in conversation in John 4:16-20. At what point did the woman at the well get uneasy with the direction their discussion was going and abruptly change the subject? Why? The woman at the well had had many husbands, yet the Word tells us that Jesus is our true husband. Read Ephesians 5:25-27 and Isaiah 54:4-5. According to these verses, what can Jesus do for us that no earthly husband could possibly do?

4. Read John 4:28-30. Why do you think she left behind her water jar? Matthew 9:17 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 address the difference between our old selves and our new selves in Christ. What might that old water jar represent in the Samaritan woman's life? And what old water jar might you need to leave behind before you can share the good news with others?
  
5. List all the possible reasons you think the woman at the well hurried back to the town to tell everyone she'd met the Messiah. In the following verses, find the best reasons of all to share the gospel: 1 Thessalonians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 9:13; Acts 20:24. In John 4:29, the woman extended an invitation to her hearers: "Come, see a man..." Why did she not simply say, "Stay put and let me tell you"? Read John 4:39-42. What was the outcome of their responding to her invitation to come and see Jesus?
  
6. What's the most important lesson you've learned from the life-changing story of the woman at the well?