



WEEK 4 (January 24, 2016)

INTRODUCTION

Religion. The word brings many ideas to mind, mostly negative: condemning, judgmental, rigid, hateful, hypocritical, and more. It may come as a surprise that Jesus was not religious. In fact, he sparred with religious people in his day and invited them to something positively different. Join us to discover the life-giving difference Jesus offers still.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Agree or disagree: The best way to avoid being judgmental is to never impose your own moral standards on someone else.
2. Has there ever been a time when you felt someone was unfairly judging you? What were the circumstances?
3. Read John 4:1-18. Most religious leaders of Jesus' day would have either condemned the woman on the spot or avoided her altogether. How did Jesus handle the situation?
4. Read John 4:19-42. What was the result of Jesus' compassion with the woman?
5. How do you imagine this scene would have played out differently had Jesus had an attitude of condemnation?
6. What is an area in your life—or who is one person in your life—that perhaps you can apply Jesus' strategy in this passage?

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

-John 4:42