



## For the One Weekly Devotionals | April 12

Welcome to Week 1 of our For the One Series content! Our goal in this series is to cultivate awareness of the people God places in our path, to recognize every person as made in God's image (*imago Dei*), and to believe that God desires relationship with **all** people! This week, we're exploring how Jesus models "seeing the one" by intentionally engaging the Samaritan woman.

### Read & Reflect on the Scripture

Read **John 4:1-42** (focus especially on verses 4-30 for the encounter, then skim 31-42 for the outcome).

- How does Jesus demonstrate awareness of the "one" in His path?
- What cultural barriers did Jesus have to *see through* in order to engage the Samaritan woman? How does this challenge our tendency to "write off" certain people (e.g., due to politics, lifestyle, background, or awkwardness)?
- Why do you think God highlights this "outsider" as the first person Jesus openly declares Himself Messiah to? What does it say about who God pursues?

### Mindset Shift

A missional mindset starts with **seeing** people as God sees them: Every person bears God's image (Genesis 1:27 - worthy of dignity, love, and in need of the gospel. As 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, God is "not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." How many people do we often miss because we're distracted, prejudiced, or unavailable? Jesus was interruptible. Are we?



Reflect on the following questions. Jot down any notes in the space below:

- Who do I tend to "write off" or feel uncomfortable around (e.g., coworkers in a different political camp, neighbors with chaotic lives, people from other cultures)?
- Is my schedule/life open to interruptions, or do I guard my time tightly?

### Case Study

Meet Sarah, an introvert in her mid-30s who works from home and attends church but rarely initiates conversations. She's an introvert and doesn't ever want to "impose" herself on others. She loved the idea of a missional mindset but felt evangelism was for extroverts – loud testimonies, street outreach, big groups, etc.

One week, after praying a prayer of availability, Sarah noticed her regular coffee shop barista (a young man with a weary expression) seemed down. Normally, she'd smile politely and leave. But she sensed a nudge.

Heart racing, she simply said, "Hey, you seem like you've had a rough day—everything okay?" He opened up about stress at home. Sarah listened deeply (her natural strength), asked gentle follow-up questions, and shared briefly how her faith gave her hope in tough seasons. No big presentation, just authentic care. Over the next few weeks, short chats built trust; she invited him to a low-key church event. He came, eventually met Jesus, and later thanked her for "seeing" him when no one else did.

Reflect: How did Sarah make herself available to be used by God in this scenario? What barriers did she face? How did Sarah utilize her unique personality to "See the One" in front of her?



## Weekly Challenge & Planning

This week, we have two challenges for you:

- **CHALLENGE 1: Pray a prayer of availability every day.**

Your prayer might go something like this: "Lord Jesus, like You at the well, I want to be available today. Open my eyes to see the 'one' You place in my path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- **CHALLENGE 2: Strike up a conversation with someone you don't know well.**

This might be a person God places in your path this week (a barista, neighbor, coworker in the break room, someone in line). Keep it simple: Ask a genuine question, give a brief compliment, etc. The key is to allow conversation to flow naturally and organically; You're simply trying to initiate a conversation, you're not necessarily trying to give a whole gospel presentation at this moment.

Begin planning now using the following questions:

- Who might God place in your path (specific places/routines)?
- What could a low-pressure opener look like? (E.g., "How's your day going?" or "I love your [item]—where'd you get it?")
- If prompted to go deeper (share faith or offer help), what might you say?

## Prepare for group discussion

Utilize the following questions to help you prep for your time in your life group.

- Are there people you write off or feel uncomfortable with? Why?
- How available is your life to interruptions? What holds you back?
- Come ready to share an evangelism story: Has there ever been a time you engaged someone randomly (what happened?), or felt prompted but didn't act (Why? Any regrets?).



End in prayer

Close your time by thanking God for the people He'll place in your path this week.