

UPPER ROOM MINISTRIES • DIALED-IN DIALOGUE 2026

WEEK 2 APPLICATION TOOL | The Woman at the Well | John 4:1–42

"He had to go through Samaria." (John 4:4) — edei: divine compulsion, not preference. He was rerouted on purpose. So are you.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Felt-Need Opener

"What's been the most draining part of your week?" — enters at the thirst level before asking about the well.

Curiosity Bridge

"What keeps pulling you back to that?" — mirrors Jesus letting her circle the topic until she was ready.

The Gentle Probe

"Is there someone in your life you can really talk to?" — surfaces loneliness without labeling it.

The Faith Door

Only after they open it first: "Has faith or prayer ever played a role for you in something like this?" — never lead with it.

CONVERSATION GUARDRAILS

Don't Lead with the Answer

Jesus never opened with 'You need living water.' He opened with 'Give me a drink.' Start where they are, not where you want them to go.

Don't Chase the Detour

When it got personal she pivoted to church debate (v.20). Acknowledge it, redirect: 'I want to come back to what you said a minute ago...'

Don't Fill the Silence

He asked about her husband — then waited. Silence after a pointed question isn't awkward. It's the Holy Spirit doing the math.

Don't Overstay the Moment

When she was ready to go, He let her go. Some encounters are planted, not harvested. Faithfulness is your job; closure is God's.

NO SHAME - NO SHADE — NAVIGATING SENSITIVE SUBJECT MATTER

Past Mistakes & Moral History

He named her five husbands plainly, not punitively. State facts; withhold verdict. "That sounds like a hard road" lands differently than silence or a sermon. Name it without weaponizing it.

Hurt by the Church

Don't defend the institution. Lead with the wound: "That's not what it's supposed to feel like — and I'm sorry it felt that way." Validation before invitation. Every time.

Addiction & Repeated Patterns

She kept drawing from the same broken well. Skip 'why do you keep doing this.' Try: 'What does that give you that you can't seem to find anywhere else?' Map the hunger, not the habit.

IGNITING THE 'GO TELL IT' — FROM ENCOUNTER TO REFERRAL EVANGELIST

She Left Her Waterpot (v.28)

The sign something real happened: she dropped what she came for. When a person is genuinely touched, they stop protecting their cover story.

She Testified, Not Preached

"Come see a man who told me everything I ever did." No theology. No program. Just 'this happened to me.' That is the template for referral evangelism.

Plant the Low-Barrier Invite

"You should come with me sometime — not to get anything thrown at you, just to be around people asking the same questions." Low commitment. Genuine welcome.

Leave a Question, Not a Conclusion

"Could this be the Christ?" (v.29) — She wondered aloud. Give people a question to carry, not a conclusion to defend. Questions travel further than arguments.

This Week: Have one real conversation — no agenda, no close. Enter at the ordinary level and follow it wherever it goes. Pay attention to what they drop, what they deflect, and what question they carry out.