

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

AS YOU READ CHAPTER 23

Journal your answers to these questions as you read through the chapter this week. You may wish to read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

1. Review the temptation of Jesus (p. 322). Then look up Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-16. How does Jesus' temptation benefit you personally?
2. When Jesus went to John to be baptized, John's well-intentioned humility turned out to be limiting self-talk, and John almost missed an incredible event in Jesus' ministry. What limiting self-talk do you do that keeps you from experiencing God's power working through you?
3. Nicodemus gets caught up in technical language, yet with very simple words Jesus unfolds to him the deep wonders of God's Kingdom. What tiny technical religious things have been stumbling blocks to you experiencing the simple yet profound wonder of life with God?
4. Why is the Samaritan woman so taken off-guard and skeptical that Jesus would speak to her? What issues make you skeptical that Jesus would come just for you, or keep you from extending Jesus' love to others that may not be like you?
5. What do you make of Jesus' action toward demon possession in Jesus' day, and in our own day?
6. What sign does Jesus give John's disciples that Jesus is, indeed, the Messiah? What does that mean for the nature of God's Kingdom on earth, and for us, Jesus' church?

PRAYER

Gracious God,

It is amazing that you show up in such surprising ways. Help me to see the stories of Jesus' life as ways you responded to the world around you. Help me keep my eyes focused on you, so that I, too, can respond to all of my encounters in the world with your eyes and through your Spirit.