

UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Youth Retreat @ Camp Baldwin

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THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING

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# HUNGER AND THIRST GAMES

## *FINDING YOUR STRENGTH TO ENDURE*

TEXT: John 4:1-42

Introduction: As we enter the arena of the “Hunger and Thirst Games” we must understand that this isn’t some make-believe fantasy from a book or movie. This is real life. What have we already seen in the life of Jesus? He spent forty days in the desert. He experienced real hunger and thirst. The temptations he faced from Satan were real. It’s no less true for us. The trials and the temptations we face are real. The heartbreaks we experience and the longings we feel are real. You hunger and thirst for something real. How you decide to fulfill it is up to you. In this lesson we are going to focus on the strength we need to endure the games. We will study about a woman who tried everything she could to satisfy her thirst and it wasn’t working. Thankfully, she met Jesus, who showed her the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

### *1) WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE WOMAN?*

- She made all the wrong choices.
- She was a failure (repeat offender).
- She felt trapped and preferred isolation.
- She did not want to interact with her peers.

### *2) WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE SAVIOR?*

- He went to Samaria out of compassion.
- He wanted to offer the woman living water and the bread of life.
- He chose to reveal His true nature.
- He taught her, He taught His disciples, and He teaches us by His actions.

### 3) *WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT HUNGER & THIRST?*

- We are offered the gift of God, through Jesus Christ.
- We can partake of living water and the bread of life.
- We can satisfy the longing in our soul.
- When we have been satisfied it will cause us to share what we have with others.

### 4) *HOW CAN WE FIND THE STRENGTH TO ENDURE?*

- We must see the compassion of Jesus.
- We must allow Jesus to get our attention.
- We must want what Jesus has to offer us (hunger and thirst).
- We must use that strength to do something profitable.

Conclusion: The Samaritan woman came looking for water but found out that her needs ran much deeper. She was looking for something to satisfy her eternal hunger and thirst. She thought she could find that satisfaction in romantic relationships... but that didn't work. She tried to find fulfillment in her beliefs... but those were debunked. She focused on her cultural practices and societal boundaries... but that was short lived. She used her genealogy and heritage as a defense... which was to no avail.

Jesus displays His compassion, mercy, and patience while He teaches this woman everything she needs to know to be saved. The hunger and thirst she had would not only satisfy her, but it would bless others! Where do you go to find your strength to get through the games? Only Jesus can offer the strength you need to endure (**Philippians 4:13**). Will you seek Him?