Jack and Jill-R.E.D. Alert

Weekend Discussion Questions January 19-20, 2013

Community:

- 1. It's been said: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." What's an example of that you've seen?
- 2. Did the person ever change? If so, what was the point that they started trying something different?

Core:

- 1. Change has to come from the inside. Read what Jesus says about where our actions come from in Luke 6:45. Where does the good or bad in our lives come from? How have you seen an example of this?
- 2. So Jesus meets this woman we've been reading about the last three weeks—what are some of the "religious rules" that Jesus is breaking by having a conversation with this woman?
- 3. So Jesus starts talking with this woman about her life, and he suggests that he could be the source of change in her life. But in the course of the conversation she comes up with **Reactions, Excuses,** and **Defenses.** Why do you think the woman gets defensive while talking with Jesus?
- 4. Read John 4:11-12. Jim summarized the woman's question: "What qualifies Jesus to tell me how to run my life?" How would you answer that question?
- 5. Now read John 4:15. The woman still thinks her biggest problem is lack of water. Her excuse is similar to ours: "If someone would fix my situation or circumstances, my problem would go away." How have you used that excuse before even when it wasn't the real problem?
- 6. Read John 4:19-20. The woman now challenges Jesus' authority to speak into her life...and sometimes we can do the same thing by saying: "It's a matter of interpretation." When have you heard that used the most?
- 7. Read as the woman plays her final card in John 4:25. Jim summarized it: "God loves me and understands my heart and why I do what I do." Why is this a terrible excuse to keep on doing things God's told us will end up wrecking our lives?

Challenge:

- 1. Think you yourself: What part of your life is broken, and if it ends up going in its current direction, will end in total disaster? Who else would be hurt from that disaster?
- 2. If Jesus was talking to you just like he was talking with the woman at the well, what would he tell you needs to change for you on a spiritual level?