

Vacation Church School

Life of Christ #3

Woman at the Well

“Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst...” John 4:14

Scripture Reference: John 4: 1-42

Goals: By the end of the lesson the student will be able to:

1. Know the story came from the Bible
2. Repeat the memory verse
3. Explain the events of the story
4. Understand what is meant by the term “living water”

Introduction:

Materials Needed:

- Bottles of water, 1 per child

1. Ask the children to think of a time when they have been really thirsty. Give them time to share their experiences.
2. Ask them if those were the only times in their lives they have ever been thirsty. Do they think they might ever be thirsty again? Ask if anyone is thirsty right now. Choose one of them, and give them a bottle of water. Let them take a drink. Take the bottle back and ask if that was enough water to take care of all the thirst they may ever have for the rest of their lives. If they drank the entire bottle would it be enough? Discuss how we obviously need more water than that to stay alive. One bottle of water would not be enough to sustain us for the rest of our lives. Let children know they will each get a bottle of water when they are done with their work for the day.
3. Tell them Jesus said he had water that would take away our thirst forever. Introduce the memory verse. Explain they are going to learn of a time when Jesus was thirsty, and taught a woman who was sharing her water with him how she would never have to thirst again. Explain to them this story is found in the Bible in the book of John.

Lesson:

Materials Needed:

- Copy of the story, or you may read it directly from the Bible and have students follow along then explain the events in your own words
- Optional Materials: pictures to show as you read the story aloud

Woman at the Well

After traveling and teaching and baptizing many, Jesus and his disciples left Judea to go again to Galilee. Their journey would take them through a place called Samaria. After walking many miles they reached a city of Samaria called Sychar. They were very tired when they came to the city so Jesus sent his disciples away to buy food and he went to rest near Jacob’s well while they were gone. It was called Jacob’s well because many years before Jacob had dug the well there in the land he gave to his son Joseph.

As Jesus sat a Samaritan woman approached the well to collect water. The woman immediately knew that Jesus was a Jew so she was shocked when Jesus said to her, "Will you please give me something to drink?" In those days Jews and Samaritans did not get along. Jews didn't talk to Samaritans at all, so for this strange man to ask her for a drink of water was quite a shock. "Why are you asking me don't you know I'm a Samaritan?" she asked him. Jesus replied, "If only you knew who I was, a gift from God. You would ask me for living water and I would give it to you." The woman was confused by this answer. She said to him, "How could you give me water? The well is deep and you have nothing to draw the water with. Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well? How can you give better water than he and his cattle had to enjoy?" Jesus said to her, "Whoever drinks of the water from this well will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks of the water I can give will never thirst again. It will become as a well inside, springing up into everlasting life." So she said, "Please give me of this water that I may never thirst again, that I might never have to come here again to draw from the well."

Jesus responded, "Go and get your husband and bring him back here." The Samaritan woman answered, "I have no husband." Jesus knew this already and told her, "You are right. You have had five husbands, and the one you are with now is not your husband." She was startled to hear Him speak things that should not have known. He was not a Samaritan. He did not live in their town. How could he possibly know these things? She said "Sir, you must be a prophet!" She continued by asking a question. "Why is it that the Jews say we must worship in Jerusalem, but our fathers worshipped here at this mountain?" Jesus answered explaining that worshipping the way they had been would change. True worshippers, wherever they were, would worship God in spirit for God is a spirit. He wants those who worship him from their hearts. The woman told him, "I know that one day the Messiah will come and when he does he will explain all things to us." Then Jesus spoke, "I that am speaking with you am he."

The woman quickly left and went into the city to tell others about the man she had met at the well. She told them he had known so much about her. How could anyone know these things and share the way to life eternal if he were not the Christ they had so long been awaiting? She told the men of the city and they followed her to where Jesus was. The men followed her to the well to see Jesus for themselves. They spoke and asked him to stay there with them awhile and he remained there two more days. There were many who believed in Him because of the words of the woman, and even more believed because they heard His own words to them.

Jesus gave the woman at the well a valuable gift. He taught her how to have life eternal by believing in him and following after his teachings. Not only was her life changed by his visit to Samaria, but the lives of many living there as well. Jesus knew there were many who were ready to hear his words and believe them. That is what he meant when he told his disciples the fields were white and ready for the harvest. The people were many, and they were ready to hear the truth. They were ready to be gathered in to be numbered among God's people.

Memory Verse Activity:

Materials Needed:

- Memory verse written on large sheet of paper or a board and posted in the room.
- Construction paper, any color. Prepare before class by drawing large pitcher on the construction paper. 1 per child +1 to use as an example
- Scissors, 1 per child
- Pen or pencil, 1 per child

1. Have the children read the memory verse together. Cover it and ask if anyone remembers the entire thing. Give children a chance to repeat the verse from memory.
2. Give each child one of the pitchers drawn on the construction paper and a pair of scissors. Have them cut the pitcher out.
3. Give each child a pen or pencil and have them write the memory verse and reference on the pitcher.
4. Review again what it means to never thirst again after having the living water that Jesus offered the woman at the well. Discuss how Jesus wants all of us to find that and have life in Him.

Story Craft: Wells

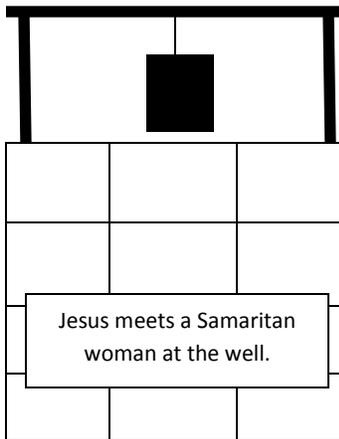
Materials Needed:

- Small strips of paper with "Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well." printed on them, 1 per child +1 to use as an example
- Small milk cartons washed with the tops cut off, 1 per child +1 to use as an example
- Glue, 1 per child
- Craft sticks, 3 per child +3 to use as an example
- Yarn, enough to attach a bucket to each well
- Construction paper any color, enough to cut out one bucket for each child
- Red or brown construction paper cut into small rectangles about ½ in by 1 in (enough to cover each milk carton), or draw lines on the paper and have the students cut them out themselves
- Scissors, 1 per child if they are cutting the rectangles themselves
- Optional materials: blue tissue paper to represent water in the well

1. Ask the children where Jesus met the woman in Samaria. Then review how they met at a well and He taught her a very important lesson there. Explain they are going to make their own well to help them remember the story. Show them your example so they can see the finished product.
2. Give each child one milk carton, construction paper rectangles, and glue (or paper and scissors if they are cutting them out themselves). Show them how to cut the rectangles and then glue them on to look like bricks covering the well.
3. Give each child a small piece of construction paper, a pencil, and scissors if they do not already have them. Have them draw a bucket on the construction paper and cut it out.

- Next pass out 3 craft sticks. Have them glue 2 sticks on opposite sides, to the inside of the milk carton. When that has set a few seconds have them take the 3rd stick and glue it across the top. This can be broken in half if necessary. (This step may be done by the teacher before class to save time.)
- Give each child a piece of yarn. Glue the bucket to one end and tie the other to the top of the well.
- Finally glue the strips of paper with the words “Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well.” to the front of the well.
- If you choose, give the children blue tissue paper cut into squares. Have them wad it up and fill the well.

Example of completed well:



Lesson Review Activities:

Woman at the Well Worksheet

Give each child one worksheet and a pencil. They can complete it on their own or with a partner. Take time when they are finished to review their answers as a group. (**Answers to worksheet questions: 2. D, 3. A, 4. C, 5. F, 6. E, 7. He knew things about her a stranger could never have known. 8. The book of John.**)

Woman at the Well

Name _____

Read each question and write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided. The first one has been done for you.

1. What was the name of the person who dug the well where Jesus rested?	B	A. Sychar
2. Who can give us living water?		B. Jacob
3. Where was the well where Jesus met the woman in the story?		C. Jews
4. Who would never even talk to Samaritans?		D. Jesus
5. Who were surprised to see Jesus speaking to a Samaritan woman?		E. Husband
6. Jesus told the woman at the well to go and get her _____ and bring him back to the well.		F. Disciples

Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

7. Why did the Samaritan woman think Jesus was a prophet? _____

8. Where in the Bible can you read this story of Jesus and the woman at the well? _____
