

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4



While Jesus was traveling through Samaria, He became very tired and sat down at a well. At noon, a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus asked her for a drink. She replied, “How is it that you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink?” She asked this question because Jews and Samaritans normally didn’t talk to each other. Jesus answered, “If you knew who I was, you would be asking me for living water.”

The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket, and this well is deep. Where would you get this living water from?”

“Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again,” Jesus said. “But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I give him will become like a fountain inside of him for eternal life.” The woman said, “Please give me this water, sir, so that I won’t have to come here and drink water anymore.”

“Go call your husband,” Jesus told her, “and come back here.”

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You are correct—you don’t have a husband. You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now is not your husband.”

“I see that you are a prophet,” the woman replied. Maybe this prophet could explain something to her. She said, “The Samaritans worship here on a mountain, but the Jews say we need to worship at the temple in Jerusalem.”

Jesus told her, “Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship God in Spirit and in truth.” The woman said to Him, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.” The woman left her water jar, went into town, and told everyone, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could he be the Messiah?”

The people left the town and made their way to Jesus. Many believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and they asked Him to stay with them. They said, “We have heard for ourselves and know that Jesus really is the Savior of the world.”

Christ Connection: Jesus pointed out the Samaritan woman’s sin so that she could believe He is the Messiah. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we might turn away from it and turn to Jesus to be saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit and eternal life.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **Have you ever been so thirsty you could hardly wait for a drink?**
- **What kind of drink do you like to have when you are most thirsty?**

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: TASTE TESTING



Before this activity, gather several different types of sodas or juices for kids to taste. Set up a table in the front of the room and place two sets of cups on the table. Fill each cup with a sample of each soda or juice. Ask for two kids to volunteer as taste testers. (Be aware of any food allergies.) Blindfold each kid volunteer. Then, challenge them to take a sip of the first drink and guess what type of soda or juice it is. Once kids have made their guess, place that sign in front of the cup. Continue directing kids to sample each liquid until they have tasted them all. Then, reveal what liquid is in each cup. Repeat with different volunteers as time allows.

SAY “ Today we will learn about a woman who was looking for something to satisfy her. **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH**, the One who had come to give living water. He alone can satisfy and give us everlasting life. ”

OPTION 2: HOW MUCH WATER?

Set up a table in front of the room and cover it with a plastic tablecloth. Set out containers, a pan, a measuring cup, and a pitcher. Select a container and place it in the pan, on the table where kids can see it. Ask one volunteer to come to the front and guess the amount of water that container can hold by pouring that amount of water into the measuring cup. Once he has guessed the amount of water to fill the container without overflowing, take note of the measurement. For example, two cups, and then direct the kid to pour the water into the container and continue pouring until all the water is out of the measuring cup, even if it overflows. Repeat with other containers.

SAY “ Today we will learn that Jesus met a woman who was drawing water at a well. She was searching for the Messiah. **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH.** ”



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about Jesus and the Samaritan woman. We'll see that **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH**. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from John 4.

•What does this story teach us about God?

Jesus pointed out the Samaritan woman's sin so that she could believe He is the Messiah. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we might turn away from it and turn to Jesus to be saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit and eternal life.

•What did the Samaritan woman do after she learned that Jesus is the Messiah?

She was amazed! The woman left her jar of water at the well and ran and told everyone she could about Jesus. Because she shared the good news about Jesus, many in her town believed that Jesus is the Messiah.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Explain to kids that a missionary named Olivia was praying for a friend she calls "Little S" in Central Asia. Little S had many questions for Olivia. They met regularly so Olivia could teach Little S about Jesus. At first, Little S seemed very interested, but soon she began experimenting with rituals and traditions from another religion. Olivia began to pray for Little S every Thursday. At the same time, unknown to Olivia, Little S was secretly meeting with another friend named Diana to read the Bible. One day, Diana told Little S, "I believe Jesus is Lord. Jesus is the Son of God." From that moment, Diana and Little S were convinced Jesus is the Son of God and they wanted to be baptized.

Olivia was happy that Diana and Little S had a Bible in their own language since it helped her tell them the good news about Jesus.

Lead kids to take turns tossing a beanbag onto the map. Allow each child to lead a prayer for missionaries and people in that country of Central Asia. Encourage kids to pray that more people in each country will want to learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Jesus invites us, just like He invited the Samaritan woman, to trust Him as Messiah. Like the woman, we must decide whether we will follow Jesus as the Messiah and trust Him to save us from our sins. Next, if we have trusted Jesus as Savior, we should go and tell others that Jesus came to rescue people from their sins.






4 PRAY

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus as the Messiah. Help us to see our sin, turn away from it, and trust in Jesus for salvation. Help us to share the good news of salvation with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- **Why does Jesus ask us to pray, even though He knows everything?**
- **What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps you know you sinned?**

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to John. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 4:7-9.

Remind preteens that Samaritans and Jews usually didn't speak to each other and, at this time, men would not usually speak to women, so the fact that Jesus interacted with the Samaritan woman was surprising. Jesus looked at her with love and spoke to her, telling her that He is the Messiah she was waiting for. Jesus came for all people from every nation and every background. Throughout Jesus' ministry, we see Him interacting with people who were often overlooked, forgotten, or even hated. Jesus went to those people because He loves them. We should go to all people, even the people who are different from us or the people who are overlooked. Followers of Jesus should love people the way He loves them and share the good news that Jesus came to save them. Choose another volunteer to read aloud John 4:7-9 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What does this story tell us about Jesus?

We learned that Jesus went to Samaria, a place most Jewish people would have probably avoided, to share the good news that He had come as the Savior of the world. Through this story, we see Jesus' care and compassion for all people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isaiah 54:10.)

2. Why is it important to realize the seriousness of sin?

Jesus pointed out the woman's sin so that she could realize her need for a Savior and trust in Him as the Messiah. When we realize that our sin separates us from God, we begin to see the importance of turning away from sin and turning to Jesus to be saved. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 1:9.)

3. Who in your life might need to hear about the living water that Jesus offers?

All the places we go are our mission fields. It is important for believers to think about who in their lives might need to hear the good news of the gospel and be ready to share the hope we have because of Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Peter 3:15.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Did Jesus ever sin?
No, Jesus never sinned.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to 1 John 3:5. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Form two teams and direct them to line up. Station two adult volunteers across the room. Challenge the first kid in each line to race across the room to the adult volunteer, say the key passage aloud, race back to their teams and tag the next kid to begin running across the room. The first team to complete the relay wins.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as the Messiah and sending the Holy Spirit who shows us our sin and helps us turn to Jesus.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

MESSIAH ACROSTIC

Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil to each kid. On a dry erase board or large sheet of paper write the name MESSIAH in all capital letters. Challenge kids to use each letter of the name Messiah to create a poem. Brainstorm as a group some possible words that could be used in the poem. For example, for the letter M kids could use *Master* or *Maker*, for E they could use *Emmanuel* or *Eternal*, and so on. Allow kids time to write. Once everyone has finished, invite kids to read their acrostic aloud to the group.