JOHN 4:1-42 | JESUS MET A SAMARITAN WOMAN

Main Point: Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.
Key Passage: John 14:6
Big Picture Question: Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.
Christ Connection: Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn’t have many friends. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

Twos and Threes

• **Tell the story:** Tell the Bible story below or use the Preschool video found on our YouTube channel. Work through these ‘gospel gems’ with your kids.

  Jesus and His friends traveled to teach people about God. They stopped in Samaria. While Jesus sat at a well, a Samaritan woman came to get water. Jesus said, “Give Me a drink.” The woman was surprised. Jesus was a Jew. Jews did not like Samaritans, but Jesus loves everyone! She said, “You want a drink from me?” Jesus said, “If you knew who I am, You would ask Me for a drink. I would give you living water.” She said, “What is this living water?” Jesus was not talking about water you drink. Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the woman that He is the Messiah. The woman left her water jar and ran to the village. She told the people to come and hear Jesus. Many people believed that Jesus is the Messiah.

  1. John spoke to a Samaritan woman.
  2. The woman told people to come and hear Jesus.
  3. Many people believed Jesus is God’s Son.

• **Walk and Talk:** Invite your toddler to march with you as you play music. After a few minutes, stop the music and ask, “Wo is the Messiah?” Guide the toddlers to shout, “Jesus!” Say: The woman said Jesus is the Messiah. We can tell people about Jesus too!

• **Color Story Picture:** Invite your toddler to color the weekly story picture. Review back over the Toddler Gospel Gems. Say: John was not the Messiah. Jesus is the Son of God.

• **Pray together:** Take time to thank God for sending Jesus. Thank God for what you learned today!
Pre-K and Kindergarten

• **Tell the story:** Walk through the attached Bible lesson with your kids. Do a quick review to help them remember and talk about what just happened in the story. Ask them these review questions and help them to make connections to their own lives.

• **Ask some questions:** Take some time to work through some questions about the passage and how it applies to their own lives.

  1. Why did most Jews travel the long way to stay away from Samaria? (The Jews did not get along with the Samaritan people.)
  2. Where did Jesus stop to rest in Samaria? (by a well in town)
  3. What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for? (a drink of water from the well)
  4. What did Jesus say He would give the woman if she asked for a drink? (living water)
  5. Was Jesus talking about actual water? (No, Jesus was talking about God’s Spirit)

• **Would You Rather? Game:** Give your kids a series of scenarios and ask them what they would rather drink in each one. Then give them different options. For example, on a hot day, would they rather drink sweet iced tea or warm green tea? On a cold day, would they rather drink hot cocoa or spiced apple cider? Say: We drink a lot of different things in many different situations, but as the end of the day, we drink things to satisfy our thirst! If you could drink something that would keep you from ever getting thirsty again, would you? Do you think there is any such drink?

• **Key Passage Reading:** Open your Bible to John 14:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Encourage your kids to say it with you. Say: Jesus said He is the truth. Jesus made God’s true words happen. God kept His promise to send a Savior when He sent His very own Son, Jesus.

• **Pray together:** Take time to thank God for His presence in our lives, for being faithful to keep His promises, and for sending Jesus. Ask God to make Himself know to us and help us worship and serve Him faithfully.
Elementary (1st-5th Grade)

- **Tell the story:** Read through the attached Bible story together. Open your Bible and also read John 4:1-42 together as family.

- **Ask some questions:** Take some time to work through some questions about the passage.
  1. Where were Jesus and His disciples at the start of the story? (Judea)
  2. Where were they going? (Galilee)
  3. Whom did Jesus meet? (a Samaritan woman)
  4. What did Jesus ask for? (a drink of water)
  5. Why was it strange for Jesus to talk to a Samaritan? (Jews did not interact with Samaritans)
  6. What did Jesus offer? (living water)
  7. Why was the Samaritan woman confused? (She thought He was speaking of regular drinking water)
  8. Who did Jesus say He is? (the Messiah)
  9. Whom did she gather to tell about Jesus? (the men/people of the town)
  10. What did Samaritans realize about Jesus? (Jesus is the Savior of the world)

- **Why is Jesus better?** Ask your kids to think about what we learned in today’s lesson. What are some ways that this story shows us that Jesus is better than anything else? Share answers as a family. **Possible answer:** Jesus is better because He knows what we need and provides it.

- **Key Passage Review:** Read John 14:6 together. Have your kids write each word of the verse on separate sheets of paper. Tape the papers in random order onto the floor, close enough for successive words to be reached in a step. Kids should step on one word at a time in the proper order to complete the key passage.

- **Pray for Sojourn Missionaries:** In our story today, Jesus went through Samaria because He know that the Samaritans needed to experience God’s grace too. The good news is for everyone all over the world. Sojourn has sent out many missionaries to different countries. Take time to pray for our missionaries with your family.

***Lesson content adapted from Lifeway’s The Gospel Project – Unit 21 – Session 3***
Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-42

Jesus had been teaching in the land of Judea, and a group of Jesus’ friends followed Him. The men were called His disciples. Many people began following Jesus, and they listened to Him teach. Now it was time for Jesus to leave Judea.

Jesus traveled back toward the land of Galilee. Between the land of Judea and the land of Galilee was the land of Samaria. Usually the people of Israel stayed away from Samaria; they did not get along with the people there. Even though traveling through Samaria was the fastest way home, they took the long way around.

But Jesus was not like the other Jews. On His way home, He traveled right through the land of Samaria. He stopped at one of the towns where there was a well. Jesus stayed at the well, and His friends went into town to buy food.

A woman who lived in Samaria came to the well to get water. Jesus said to the woman, “Give Me a drink.” The woman was surprised. “I am a Samaritan,” she said. “Why are you talking to me?” Jesus said, “I asked you for a drink. You do not know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Me for a drink. I would give you living water.”

The woman was confused. Jesus did not have any water with Him. He did not even have a bucket to get water out of the well.

“Sir,” the woman said, “where do You get ‘living water’?”

“Anyone who drinks the water from this well will be thirsty again,” Jesus said, “but anyone who drinks the water I give will never get thirsty again!” That sounded wonderful! But Jesus wasn’t talking about actual water. He was talking about God’s Spirit. Whoever has God’s Spirit will have eternal life. But the woman did not understand.

“Sir, I want living water,” she said. “Then I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water with my bucket.” “Go get your husband,” Jesus said.

“I do not have a husband,” the woman said.

Jesus knew she was telling the truth. Jesus knew everything about the woman. The woman could tell Jesus was wise, so she asked Him a question about worshiping God. Then she said, “I know the Messiah is coming. He will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman left and told the people in her town what had happened. Many people believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. Jesus stayed in the town for two days, and many more people believed in Him. The people said, “We have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

Christ Connection: Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn’t have many friends. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

Jesus is better than anything else because... He offers us Living Water.

Bible Storytelling Tips

Use a felt board: Create felt figures by printing an extra Bible story picture onto thick paper. Cut out the well, Jesus, and woman figures. Attach a strip of felt onto the back. Cover a sheet of cardboard with a large piece of felt. Place the figures onto the felt board as they are mentioned in the story.

Build a well: Invite preschoolers to bring blocks to large group time. Construct a crude well with the blocks and sit around it. Tell the story around the well.