

The Samaritan Woman

(John 4:3-42)

Introduction

[Teacher, pour yourself a glass of water and take a drink.]

Ah yes, cool, refreshing water! What are some things you use water for here on earth? (Drinking, cleaning, plants need water to grow, too. Water not only gives us life, it gives plants and animals life, too.)

Do you drink a lot of water? How much water do you drink each day? Most experts agree that we should drink about eight or nine glasses of water a day. That seems like a lot of water, but did you know that your body is more than 60% water? And, we are constantly losing the water in our body when we sweat or go to the bathroom. That's why we need to keep drinking water all day long.

We all know what it means to be thirsty. Our throats and mouths get dry. We need to drink something cool and wet to make it better. If we don't drink something, we can get sick. But after you had your drink did you ever thirst again? (Yes) How come? Our bodies need water.

Wouldn't it be great if we never got thirsty? What if there was special water that we could drink once and it would take care of us forever?

In a different way, our hearts and minds and souls can also get thirsty. Have you ever wondered what God is like? Or what heaven is like? Have you ever wondered what happens to your life when you get through with it here on earth?

We call that a spiritual thirst—a thirst for an understanding of the things of God; a thirst for truth and righteousness. So, just as your body needs water, your heart and mind and soul needs something to satisfy it, too. When our hearts are thirsty, we can go to God to quench our spiritual thirst.

Jesus called Himself the "Living Water." How is He like water to people's hearts? (Jesus refreshes our inner being, helps us grow spiritually, gives us spiritual life, and cleans our hearts from sin.)

Just as everyone in the world needs water to stay healthy in this life, everyone needs Jesus, the Living Water to give them eternal life.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we are so thankful that we can come to Sunday school and learn about Jesus. Prepare our hearts this morning to receive what You have planned for us in this lesson. Give me the desire to tell others about Him, too. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

...he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35b)

Lesson

One day Jesus and His disciples were traveling to Galilee through an area called Samaria. [Teacher, show the students the map of Israel.]

John 4:3-5

So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. (4) He had to go through Samaria on the way. (5) Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Now Jesus and His disciples were Jewish, and most Jewish people would not travel through Samaria. The Jews didn't like the Samaritans and the Samaritans didn't like the Jews. So, they normally chose a different route to avoid Samaria. But this didn't stop Jesus from visiting Samaria. He had an important appointment to keep!

John 4:6

Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.

They had been walking all day and they were tired and hungry and thirsty. About noon, Jesus sat down by a well of cool water to rest while His disciples went into a village near by to find food.

Jesus was alone by the well and had no way to get water. Pretty soon a woman came to the well to get some water.

John 4:7-8

Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." (8) He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

When Jesus spoke to her, the woman must have been surprised. In those days men and women didn't usually speak to one another unless they knew each other. Besides that, Jews and Samaritans usually never talked to each other. But Jesus loves all people. He would never treat someone rudely.

John 4:9

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Little did this woman know who she was talking to!

John 4:10

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

Jesus was saying, *"If you only knew that you were talking to the creator of the universe, you would ask Me for water..."*

Jesus' answer must have confused her. He didn't even have a bucket, so how could He give her water?

John 4:11

"But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?"

Jesus was talking about a different kind of water.

John 4:13-14

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. (14) But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

Jesus was saying that if she drinks of ordinary water, she will be thirsty again, but the water He wants to give her will last forever. He said it will give her eternal life.

Even though this woman didn't understand exactly what Jesus meant, this living water sounded almost too good to be true!

John 4:15

"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

She's excited to think that she would never have to make the long trip out to the well and have to carry the heavy water back to town. It is likely that she had to walk several miles out to the well and the water pot could have weighed up to 45 pounds. (A gallon of water is 8 lbs.)

She still doesn't understand what Jesus is trying to tell her. So, Jesus confronts this woman with her own sinful life.

John 4:16

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

This was His way of getting her to confess her sin to Him. Before the woman could believe in Jesus as the One who could give her "living water" (everlasting life) she had to recognize that she was a sinner.

The same is true for us. Before we can believe that Jesus is the answer to our sin problem, we have to recognize we have a sin problem. That's what gives us a "spiritual thirst" that must be satisfied. The Bible says that you must be willing to admit you're a sinner and that you need the Lord Jesus to give you "living water" (everlasting life). You need to now in your heart you desperately need Jesus to forgive you your sins.

Jesus was trying to help the Samaritan woman see that she was a sinner.

John 4:17-18

"I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— (18) for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

The woman was face-to-face with the Savior of the world, the Messiah, the perfect One Who would die for her sins and the sins of the whole world. This woman was beginning to think that Jesus was not an ordinary man.

John 4:19

"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet."

There was something about Jesus that was special.

John 4:25

The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

The Samaritans were waiting for God to send a Savior who would be a great teacher.

John 4:26

Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

Jesus told her that He is the Savior of the world that everyone had been waiting for since the beginning of time. Immediately the woman believed that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and she got excited...

The woman was so excited, she set her water jar by the well and hurried to town to tell everyone about Him, *"Come and meet a man I think is the Christ, the Promised One from God that we have read about in the scriptures!"*

John 4:28-30

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, (29) "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" (30) So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

Many people came to the well to meet Jesus. They wanted to hear what He said.

When the crowd of people from the town got to Jesus, they sat close by to hear Him tell them about the kingdom of God. Jesus told them about God's love. Jesus told them that anyone who believes in Him and obeys His words would be happy because they could have a home in Heaven.

Many people believed what Jesus said and they became Christ followers, or Christians, just like us.

John 4:39-42

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" (40) When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, (41) long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. (42) Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

Jesus showed love to the Samaritan woman, and it made her eager to tell everyone she knew about Him. Many Samaritans from the village

believed in Jesus because of what the woman told them. But, then, once they heard Jesus for themselves, they knew without a doubt that Jesus was the Savior of the world.

Is Jesus doing exciting things for you in your life? Are you telling your friends about all the great things He does for you? Don't you want everyone to have this "living water"? All they need to do is believe that Jesus their Savior. But how can they believe if you don't tell them?

[Give the children a mini bottle of water as a treat.]

Closing Prayer

Father, we admit we are sinners in need of the Living Water to wash our souls. Thank You for sending Jesus to satisfy our thirst for forgiveness of our sins. We can't wait to tell others about You. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Cup of Living Water Craft

Materials:

- Paper 9-oz. Party Cups
- Scissors
- Hole Punch
- Blue Card Stock
- Yarn

Procedure:

1. Print water-drop shapes on heavy paper.
2. Have children cut out drop shapes and write the memory verse one word per waterdrop. If you have younger children, you can precut the water drops.



3. Punch holes at the top of each water drop.
4. Have children string the water drops in order on the string, tying each waterdrop to the string before they add the next one.
5. Have your children color the paper cup to hold the waterdrops and write the Bible verse on one side. Punch a hole in the bottom of the cup and string the yarn through the hole. Tape the string to the bottom of the cup.
6. Children can pull the drops out to practice their memory verse at home.

Cross Cultural Collage

Materials: poster board, markers, scissors, glue, old magazines.

Divide the class into groups. Have each group make a poster. On the poster they will first write the words, "Jesus Loves the People of the World." The rest of the poster they will fill in with a collage of pictures cut out of the magazines of children or people of all different backgrounds. Display the poster in the classroom as a reminder that Jesus was not prejudiced. He loves people from all cultures.

Game Center

Living Water Commercial

Jesus said He could offer people living water. That living water is Jesus Himself! Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we can live forever in heaven. That's what living water is all about.

Have the children pair up and create a commercial for the Living Water of Jesus based on John 4:13-14. For example, a child could hold up a bottle of water and say, "You need this!" Encourage them to make their commercial as convincing as they can. Let the kids show or perform their commercial for the rest of the class. You could even video tape their commercial, just for fun.

Memory Verse Relay Race

Divide the group into two teams (boys against girls?)

Provide a bucket and a soup ladle for each team.

Create a set of Waterdrop Memory Verse cards for each team cut from card stock or construction paper. Using a different color for each team, write one word or phrase from the Bible verse on each waterdrop.

Put each team's Memory Verse "drops" in a bucket on the opposite side of the room.

On "GO", let the first child on the team run to the bucket and put one "drop" in the scoop and carry it back to the team.

The first team to have their Memory Verse Waterdrops in the correct order wins!

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Where was Jesus going when he met the woman at the well? (Jesus traveled through Samaria on His way to Galilee.)
2. Why didn't Jews normally travel through Samaria and why do you think Jesus chose to go that way? (The Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other.)
3. Why was it unusual for Jesus to have talked with the Samaritan woman at the well? (She was a Samaritan and a woman.)
4. Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. How did Jesus show He was different? (Jesus loves all people.)
5. What did Jesus offer the Samaritan woman? (Living water.)



6. When Jesus told the Samaritan woman about "living water," what did He mean? (The life Jesus gives us constantly satisfies our needs and desires.)
7. What kinds of "thirsts" do you think Jesus' water can quench? (Thirst for truth and righteousness)
8. How is Jesus like water to our souls? (Jesus brings refreshment, helps us grow, gives us life, and cleans us.)
9. Why are people spiritually "thirsty"? Why do we need the "Living Water?" (Because we are not right with God on the inside. We know we are sinners and that we cannot change ourselves.)
10. How do you drink of the "living water?" (By receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior He will give you everlasting life.)
11. Why is it important to recognize that you are sinner before you ask Jesus for the "Living Water?" (You need to know in your heart that you cannot change yourself and that you desperately need Jesus to forgive your sins.)

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