

Bible Story

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman • John 4:1-42

Story Point

Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who believe.

Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

Big Picture

What makes people special?

People are special because we are made in God’s image,
as male and female, to know Him.

FOR PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study

At the time Jesus was on earth, Jews and Samaritans didn’t get along. The strife between the two groups stretched back hundreds of years, to the Babylonian exile.

When the Babylonians attacked Judah, they moved a large group of God’s people away from their homes. But some of the people—the poorest, sickest, least able to work—were left behind in the region that became known as Samaria. The exile lasted 70 years. During that time, those left in Samaria began to mingle with their neighbors to the north. They intermarried and practiced foreign customs. While the Samaritans still believed in God, they adapted foreign beliefs as well.

The Jews who returned home from Babylon to rebuild God’s temple in Jerusalem rejected this new way of life. They were dedicated to obeying and worshiping God, so they didn’t agree with the Samaritans’ practices. The Samaritans opposed the Jews’ efforts to reestablish their nation. In time, the Jews’ hate for the Samaritans grew—so much so that a Jew traveling from Judea to Galilee would take a longer route to travel around Samaria rather than through it.

Jesus broke down barriers when He traveled to Galilee by way of Samaria. Even more surprising, Jesus stopped at a well around noon and asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. Jewish men did not speak to women in public.

But Jesus was kind to her, and He offered her a gift: living water. The woman didn’t understand, but Jesus revealed His knowledge of her past. He even gave her a glimpse of the future. The Samaritan woman expected a Messiah to come and fix everything. Jesus said, “I am He.”

Explain to kids that the living water Jesus offers is the Holy Spirit. (See John 7:37-39.) The Holy Spirit is a gift that He is eager to give us when we ask Him. Those who receive His grace will never be thirsty again.

Activity Sheet

Invite kids to complete “Big Picture Jars” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the pictures in the jars to fill in the answer to the big picture question.

What You Say:

Do you believe that all people are special? The Bible says they are! In the Bible story we are going to hear today, Jesus traveled through a place called Samaria and met a woman who some people did not think was very special or important. Do you think Jesus talked to her? Why? Let’s find out more.

Activity: Everything You Did

Instruct the kids to sit on the floor. Select a volunteer to come in front of the other kids and act out something they did the day before. Allow the rest of the group to guess what they are acting out. Whoever is correct will take the next turn acting out something he did.

What You Say:

We do all kinds of things in a day. Some things might be easy for another to guess, such as eating or sleeping, but other things might be hard to guess. Today we will hear a story about a time Jesus showed He knew about a person’s sin without her telling Him. **(Open your Bible to John 4)**

Bible Lesson: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman • John 4:1-42

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. ⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” ¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” ¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” ¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” ¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” ²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the

Messiah?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" ³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

Discuss

- What did Jesus ask for when He first saw the Samaritan woman? (*a drink of water, John 4:7*)
- What did Jesus say would happen to a person who drinks the living water? (*He will never thirst again. It will become a well in him. He will have eternal life; John 4:14*)
- Where did Jesus say people will worship God? (*anywhere, in spirit and truth; John 4:23-24*)
- What is the living water Jesus spoke about? *Guide kids to see that the living water is a picture of what the Holy Spirit is like. When we believe the gospel, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live within us. He helps us to love and obey God and fills our lives with joy and love so that we can "overflow" joy and love onto other people.*
- What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? *Discuss how everyone worships something, but only believers worship the one true God. Point out that worshiping in spirit means that our very core, including our emotions, is involved in worshiping God. Explain that worshiping in truth means we worship the true God when we understand the wonderful truth of what He has done for us.*
- How can we receive "living water"? *Remind the kids that the Bible teaches everyone who believes the gospel will be saved. Help them understand that when we believe the gospel, we repent of sin and love God. God forgives our sin, gives us new hearts, and sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us obey God out of love.*

What You Say:

Jesus stopped to talk to a woman, which was a bit strange in those days. More than that, she was a Samaritan; the Samaritans and the Jews did not get along well. Many years before, when the Northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria, some of the people living in Samaria—their capital—did not get taken away. However, most of those people did not obey God; they married people who worshiped false gods. As a result, the Jewish people who came back from Babylon did not like the disobedient Samaritans who were still living in the land.

Jesus loved the Samaritan woman though. He was not bothered that she was a woman or that she was a Samaritan; she was special to God. ***What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.***

Jesus knew all about the woman's sin and still wanted to know her and save her. He talked about living water, but she was confused. He didn't mean literal water, He meant the Holy Spirit. **Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to**

those who believe. The Holy Spirit lives inside believers, and He helps us to understand God’s Word and obey Him. Anyone can be a believer because Jesus loves all people. The gift of salvation is freely offered to us.

When we have the Holy Spirit living within us, love and joy begin to fill our lives and overflow into the lives of the people around us. We become like a new well that can provide refreshment to our friends, family, and everyone we meet. If we tell them the good news about Jesus, and they believe, they will be filled with the Holy Spirit also! In that way, it is almost like our “living water” can transfer into the lives of others.

Christ Connection

Jesus offers something better than physical water; He gives us Himself. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who comes to Him by faith. We can worship Him as Lord and Savior wherever we are. We can spread the good news about Jesus and help other people begin a relationship with Him. Then they can be filled with living water too!

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS:

Ask:

- What is living water? Where does it come from? *Guide kids to recall that Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman. The living water Jesus was talking about is the Holy Spirit. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Him. He saves us from our sins and gives us eternal life.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 7:37-39.)
- Why is sharing your testimony important? *Help kids recognize the power of the Samaritan woman’s testimony. She told others in her town what Jesus had done, and they believed in Him. Emphasize that everyone can tell others what God has done in his or her life. Jesus calls us to build relationships with others and tell them the good news of the gospel.*
(Option: Choose a kid to read 1 John 4:13-15.)
- What are some ways you can show love to others? How can you remember to put others first? *Allow kids to share their ideas for practically serving others. Suggest kids paint one fingernail a bright color, wear their watch upside-down, apply a sticker to a place they’ll see frequently (such as the toe of a shoe). When kids see the paint, watch, or sticker, they can remember to live with an others-first attitude.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 4:11.)

Big Picture Question

Our big picture question fits right into our Bible story. I’ll ask the question, and then I want you to shout out the answer: ***What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God’s image, as male and female, to know Him.*** Isn’t that great? God wants all people—no matter where they are from, what they look like, or what activities they like—to know Him. He created each of us in His image and He gave us His Word, the Bible, so we can know what is true about God and about ourselves.

Jesus spent a lot of time with people while He was on earth. He is *Immanuel*—“God with us”! Who are some of the people we’ve heard about the last few weeks? [*Invite kids to respond.*] We saw that **people came to Jesus, and He healed them.** He met with people in the synagogue, and **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**

Did everyone believe Him? Not exactly. Many people didn’t understand. Nicodemus went to talk to Jesus at night. **Jesus taught that we must be born again.** In today’s story, “Jesus and the Samaritan Woman,” we learned how Jesus interacted with all people—not just Jews.

Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video

Show the Questions from Kids video for this lesson. Prompt kids to think about how Jesus showed love to people while He was on earth. Guide them to discuss how we can show love to others, especially those who might seem hard to love.

Missions Moment

Show kids the "Walk Church in Prayer" and read the caption. Stop and pray, or ask for a volunteer to pray according to the provided prompt.

What You Say:

The Ratners and the Christians at Walk Church believe in the power of prayer and that the Holy Spirit will help them share Jesus with more people. **Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who believe.** Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will help the Ratners and missionaries all over the world.

Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus. We cannot earn Your love, and we praise You for loving us anyway. Help us love others with love that overflows from You. Give us wisdom and courage to share the gospel with those around us. Amen.

CRAFT: Samaritan Woman At The Well

The Samaritan woman was rejected by those around her because of her immorality. Jesus did not reject her. He sought her, had compassion for her and ministered to her by preaching to her the good news of salvation. We also need to show the same love that Jesus showed to the Samaritan woman by sharing the gospel and telling others about Jesus.

The Instructions seem complex, but you can easily assemble the craft just by looking at picture.

Instructions

1. Print the template on card stock. ([Template](#))
2. Color and cut out all of the pieces including Bible verse.
3. Color a lollipop stick brown.
4. Glue the 4 wooden posts together. You will be left with two wooden post pieces. On one of the sides for each post will be a piece with the black dot.
5. Take the well piece and fold on the solid lines creating the creases that will help you assemble the well.
6. Glue the sides of the well together by adding glue to the side tab of the well.
7. Glue the wooden posts to the inside of the well.
8. Glue the top of the well piece in place.
9. Glue the Bible verse on the side of the well.
10. Puncture the black dots on the wooden posts. Then with a toothpick make the hole larger.
11. Stick the colored lollipop stick through each of the holes on the wooden posts.
12. Glue two pieces of black or brown yarn/string to the back of the wooden barrel and the other end to the colored popsicle stick.

