

## **Unit 21 • Session 4 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

Bible Passage: John 4

Story Point: Jesus loves all people.

Key Passage: John 3:16

Big Picture Question: What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.

### **The BIBLE Story**

Jesus had been teaching in the land of Judea. When it was time to leave, Jesus and His disciples traveled toward the land of Galilee. They traveled right through Samaria. He stopped at one of the towns where there was a well. Jesus stayed at the well, and His disciples went into town to buy food.

A woman who lived in Samaria came to the well to get water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

The woman was surprised. Jews did not like Samaritans! “Why are you talking to me?” she asked. “I am a Samaritan.”

Jesus said, “If you knew who I am, 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.

The woman asked, “Sir, where do You get ‘living water?’”

Jesus said, “Anyone who drinks the water from this well will be thirsty again, 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.

The woman did not understand. “Sir, I want living water,” she said. “Then I will not have to keep coming to this well to get water with my bucket.”

“Go get your husband,” Jesus said.

The woman replied, “I do not have a husband.”

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 worshipping 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 is different from other people. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin. When we trust in Jesus, we worship Him as our Lord and Savior.***

**Say** • Jesus’ began teaching people about God and His Kingdom. In Bible times, disciples chose a teacher to follow, but **Jesus chose disciples to follow Him**. Jesus’ disciples left everything behind to follow Jesus. We are Jesus’ disciples when we trust in Him. Jesus gives us the special job of telling people about Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear about Jesus.

### Learn the big picture question

**Say** • The woman at the well was surprised when Jesus spoke to her because Jewish men did not speak to Samaritan women. Jesus loves all people because He loves everyone God made. ***What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.***

### Practice the key passage

*What you need: Bible*

Before the session, place the key passage marker at John 3:16. Hide the Bible somewhere unlikely. Ask your child to find it, giving specific direction. Invite him to open the found Bible to the key passage. Read it out loud.

**Say** • Our key passage tells us that God sent His Son to the world to give everyone who believes in Him eternal life. Most people in Bible times thought only Jews could have life with God. But Jesus is different from other people. Instead of avoiding the woman like other Jews, He went looking for her. Jesus came to offer God’s free gift of salvation to everyone.

### Activity page

*What you need: coloring/activity, markers or crayons*

Give your child the coloring/activity page. Invite her to color the one side. On the other side, help her trace the straightest path from Judea to Galilee. Read the names of the places as you point them out.

**Say** • Good job finding the most direct path! Believe it or not, most Jews who traveled from Judea to Galilee chose to walk all the way around Samaria in the middle. But Jesus walked straight through it. Who did he meet when he walked through Samaria? What did he give her? Retell the Bible story as needed.

### Tell how many you have

Ask children to use their fingers to hold up the number of items they have. Possible items include dogs, cats, fish, brothers, sisters, grandparents, parents, teachers, bicycles, toothbrushes, TVs, ears, toes, brains, and so forth.

**Say** • The woman at the well said she did not have a husband. The Bible says she had had five husbands. Jesus knew everything about the woman, and He loved her still. **Jesus loves all people** and showed us His love by dying for our sin and rising again.

### Paint with water

*What you need: “heart page” printable, paintbrush, cup, and water*

Print out the “heart” page. Provide a cup of water and a paintbrush. Encourage your child to paint water designs on the heart. Optional: Instead of using construction paper, try painting with water outside on the sidewalk.

**Say** • Jesus loved the Samaritan woman. He told her He was the Messiah and could give her living water, which is the Spirit of God. **Jesus loves all people** and offers all people eternal life.

### Story review

Talk about how the Samaritan woman carried buckets of water from the well to her house every day. She thought if she could get the living water Jesus talked about she would not have to come to the well with her bucket anymore, but Jesus was talking about God's Spirit. **Jesus loves all people**, and He gives God's Spirit to all who trust in Him for eternal life.

Ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- Where did Jesus stop to rest? (*a well in Samaria*)
- Why was the woman surprised Jesus talked to her? (*Jews did not like Samaritans.*)
- What is the living water Jesus told the woman about? (*God's Spirit.*)
- Who did Jesus say He is? (*the Messiah*)
- ***What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.***