

We use a watch to measure time. I wonder if we could use a watch to measure how long God's love will last. The Bible tells us that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 103:17). Wow! If God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, I guess we couldn't measure it with a watch.

Read (John 3:16). How do you measure a love like that? We can't measure it. We don't need to, but we do need to experience it.

My prayer for you today is, "That you may understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is. May you experience it, though it is so great you will never fully understand it" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Dear God, we thank You for Your love—a love so great that You gave Your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life, amen.

Memory Verse: 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.



Lesson 4 [Chapter 4] "The Samaritan Woman"

Remember:

Last lesson, we talked about Nicodemus who met Jesus at night, and Jesus explained to him the spiritual birth. Also, the famous declaration that God sent His Son out of love for the world, so believers wouldn't perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Lesson Goal:

When we have Jesus in our hearts, our spirits are made alive, and we are no longer thirsty on the inside.

Lesson opener:

Ask your children if they have ever been thirsty? When you are cold, would you prefer to drink hot chocolate or iced lemonade? When you are very hot, would you rather drink water or milk? Pour a glass of fresh water and refer to it as you read the story with your child.

Without drinking water, we could not live. Cut a flower and let it wilt. Then stick it into some water and check it later. The water has made the flower well again.

Jesus used water as an example to the Samaritan woman to show her how important it was to have Jesus in her life.

Without Jesus, our souls are dead. He is the living water that makes our souls well and strong, just like physical water makes our bodies, and pets, and plants well and strong.

Lesson Body:

Short story telling video for little kids:

[youtube.com/watch?time_continue=77&v=pNxNWv6KZ7s&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsundayschool.works%2F&source_ve_path=Mjg2NjY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=77&v=pNxNWv6KZ7s&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsundayschool.works%2F&source_ve_path=Mjg2NjY)

A Samaritan Woman Meets Her Messiah 4:1-26

Read the verses then ask these questions and they can look up the answers from the bible to tell the story:

- Verse 5 - What kind of city does Jesus arrive at? (A Samaritan city)
- Verse 6 - What time of the day is it? (Noon)
- Verse 7 - Who does Jesus speak to? (A Samaritan woman)
- Verse 9 - Who notices that this conversation is weird? (the Samaritan woman)
- Verse 10 - When Jesus talks about "living water," do you think He's talking about regular or special water that you drink? Or do you think He's talking about something else? If something else - what do you think He's talking about?
- Verse 11 - What does the Samaritan woman think Jesus is talking about? (regular water - she says He doesn't have a bucket)
- Verse 13 and 14 - What does Jesus say the living water does that He offers? (won't let you thirst again)
- Verse 15 - Does the Samaritan woman sound interested in living water? (Yes)
- Verse 15 - Even though she sounds interested, does she seem to understand exactly what Jesus is talking about? (Nope, probably not, since she says, "never...have to keep coming here to draw water")
- Verse 27 - Are the disciples ok with Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman? (Probably not - but they manage not to say their disapproving thoughts out loud)
- Verse 28 - Who does the Samaritan woman talk to about Jesus? (The people of the Samaritan city)
- Verse 40 - Because of the woman's words to the people of the city, how do the Samaritans respond to Jesus? (they invite Him to stay)
- Verse 41 - During their time together, what happens? (the people of the Samaritan city are believing what Jesus is telling them)
- Verse 42 - And what do the people of the city tell the woman who was at the well? (that they too think that Jesus is the Messiah)

Discuss:

Jesus was fully divine and fully human. Like us, He suffered from hunger and thirst and felt tired but did not waste the opportunity to reach out to the lost sheep.

The Samaritans in Jesus' time were strongly and greatly disliked by the Jews - and vice versa.

Samaritans and Jews had a lot in common and a shared history, but over the centuries, there was a split due to invasions and because of that split, the politics and religious practices varied just enough to cause the two groups of people to really, really dislike each other. The Jews in Samaria intermixed with other nationalities that were idol worshippers. The Jews despised the Samaritans as much as they despised the rest of the Gentiles.

So, the idea that Jesus would visit a Samaritan city, much less talk to someone in the city is pretty unexpected, considered so weird as in "outside of acceptable social norms" type.

But what we see is that Jesus is doing what He teaches - not only does He use Samaritans in His parables and calls them "good" and then says that there are no loopholes with sharing mercy, even with Samaritans -- He then DOES what He teaches.

Great way to teach, right?

But there's even more going on here than just the Samaritan / Israelite tensions.

There is also a Samaritan / Samaritan tension in this story.

Because not only is the Samaritan woman at odds with Jesus, but she is also an outcast in her own town. One of the hints that tells us this, is that she's at the well at noon - that's not the usual time to get water: Morning and evening are the usual times to get water.

In other words, the woman is there because no one else is. She knows that's not the usual time you'd go get water. She's there at noon so that she can avoid the rest of the townspeople

Getting water was usually a community event, but for this one woman, getting water had become something that REMINDED her that she wasn't part of the community. She was excluded for being a sinner.

But we were not made to be excluded, but to belong.

Which is why Jesus talks about this LIVING water with the excluded Samaritan!

Living water is Jesus' metaphoric way of talking about receiving and living God's life instead of just surviving life.

And then, we see how this living water, even just TALKING about it, starts to restore the woman to her community.

The Samaritan woman was filled with curiosity and wonder at the thought of this living water. She wanted some. She did not understand yet that Jesus was talking about spiritual water, the blessings that the Holy Spirit brings to every accepting heart.

Jesus offered her living water. She asked for some, but Jesus said, "Go, call your husband..." Why did He say that? Remember that Jesus knows all about us and He loves us. He knew this woman's heart. He knew she had something wrong going on in her life. She was not only physically thirsty, but she was spiritually thirsty. She needed Jesus! If she was to have His living water springing up inside her, she had to let Him fix the wrong things in her. She had to be honest with Him.

He knows everything anyway. We cannot hide anything from Him. We must come to Him with honesty.

Immediately, she tried to avoid what He was saying. She quickly said, "I have no husband." She wanted Him to think she was fine by wearing a mask. But Jesus lovingly removed her mask and said that she had had five husbands and now lived with a man that was not her husband.

Wow! Jesus is very honest. Jesus knows all about us and He loves us. No mask that we try to hide behind fools Him. He loves us enough to pull off the masks that we try to wear to hide our sins. He gets close to us and tells us that we cannot hide from Him.

The woman knew Jesus was someone extraordinary. She called Him a prophet. But He was more than just a prophet. He was her Messiah, her Savior. He was the one who could heal her spirit and give her new life. Jesus was the One who could give her living water, if she would come to Him in repentance.

The woman still tried to avoid Jesus. She thought that if she could get into a discussion about God, Jesus might forget about her and her need, but He did not. He continued to remove her mask and help her be honest about her life, her sin, and her need for Him.

She wanted to know where to worship, but He simply told her that where one worships is not important. To truly worship God, we all must get down to the deepest things in our hearts. We must be open and honest before God, no masks. We must be real. When you are prepared to do that, you do not need to discuss the place of worship; the place is nothing. But worshipping in spirit and truth is everything.

There was something so right, so honest, so wise about Jesus that this woman began to wonder if He could be the promised Messiah, the Savior. Then He boldly claimed, "I who speak to you am He."

The woman left her water pot and ran off to tell the people in the city about Jesus. And they listened enough that they went to give Jesus a chance.

And then, because of this Living Water that Jesus is talking about, the townspeople really started to respond to Jesus (verse 42). He stayed with them for two days. Many of them believed in Him.



The Whiteness Harvest 4:27-38

The disciples came back to Jesus with food. They were shocked! A Rabbi was not supposed to talk alone with a woman, but Jesus was doing just that!

He was showing them that their rules had nothing to do with God. They offered Him food, but He explained to them that His food was doing His Father's will.

What was God's will here at this well in Samaria? To talk to that woman and lead her into God's light.

Then He told His disciples that there were people everywhere who needed spiritual food just like the Samaritan woman, people whose spirits were dead and miserable, hopeless and thirsty. They needed the living water of Jesus in their hearts.

We are His disciples, and we can go out and tell others about Jesus. If we share what Jesus has done in our lives, people will go to Jesus to see what it is He has for them.

Nobleman's Son Healed 4:46-54

Jesus performs His second sign in Galilee by healing a royal official's dying son from a distance. When the official asks for help in Cana, Jesus tells him, "Go, your son will live." The boy recovers at that exact moment, and people believe in Him.

Lesson Delivery Idea:

The Woman at the well



One day, Jesus visited a town in Samaria.

He was tired from the journey and sat down by Jacob's well



A Samaritan woman came to fetch some water.

She went in the middle of the day so that no one would see her.

She was embarrassed by some things she had done.

She was surprised when Jesus spoke to her.



Jesus asked her for water.

Jesus told her about the things that she had done.

He said that He was the



The Samaritan woman ran to tell all her friends about Jesus.

Many other people listened to her and put their trust in Jesus.

The people said, "We really know Jesus is the Saviour of the world."

Memory Verse: 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Takeaway:

Action item for the week:

This week, whenever you are hungry or have a craving for something, practice saying a short prayer before eating. It's easy to focus on our physical hunger and thirst, but remember this Gospel lesson and the importance of attending to our spiritual needs as well.

On the day of Pentecost the Samaritan woman and her five sisters were baptized by the name "Photini" which means the enlightened one. St. Photini became a missionary and was known for her brave Christian teachings. She would give her life and that of her children for the Lord Jesus Christ by refusing to deny the Lord Jesus and His teachings. St. Photini would become forever known as a saint. God blessed St. Photini.

Games:

- Tell the children the following story, encouraging them to move their hands like a flowing river and say “whoosh” when they hear the word “water”.

Once when Jesus was traveling, He had to walk through Samaria. Jesus was tired from His journey. It was noon and the sun was hot, so He sat down at a **water** well. His disciples went into a nearby city to buy food. While Jesus was sitting at the well, a woman from Samaria came to the well to draw some **water**. Jesus said, “Give me some **water** to drink.” The Samaritan woman was surprised and said, “Why are you asking for **water** from me, a Samaritan woman?” Jews and Samaritans did not get along, and the woman thought Jesus should know that!

Jesus said, “If you recognized me, YOU would ask ME for **water**, and I would give you living **water**.”

The woman said to Jesus, “You don’t have a bucket to draw **water**, and the well is very deep. Where do you think you can get this living **water**? Do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well to drink **water** from?”

Jesus answered the woman, “Everyone who drinks this **water** will be thirsty again. Whoever drinks the **water** I give will never be thirsty again. The **water** I give will be like a spring of **water** that springs up into eternal life.”

The woman was amazed and said, “Sir, I see you are a prophet. We Samaritans worship on this mountain, but your people say that we should worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus responded, “Soon, it won’t matter so much where you worship. True worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach us everything.” Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman put down her **water** jar and ran into the city. She said, “Come and see Jesus!” The people followed her from the city and went to see Jesus.

The disciples returned with food from the city. Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” The disciples were confused. Jesus said, “I am fed by doing God’s work.”

**The Woman at the Well
Coded Words**

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

19 8 9 18 19 20 25

19 1 13 1 18 9 20 1 14

2 21 3 11 5 20

4 9 19 3 9 16 12 5 19

19 1 22 9 15 18

PHRASE:

1 12 12 16 5 15 16 12 5

1 18 5 9 13 16 15 18 20 1 14 20

20 15 10 5 19 21 19



Lesson 5 [Chapter 5] “The Paralytic by the pool”

Remember:

Last lesson, John 4, Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well and offers her “living water,” symbolizing eternal life, while teaching that true worship is in spirit and truth rather than tied to a place; through her testimony many Samaritans come to believe in Him as the Savior of the world.

Lesson Goal:

It’s important for us to realize and recognize where our trust and hope are found. We need to pay attention to God’s Word and to be open to its truth. If we put our faith in the wrong things, we might miss the beauty of potential blessings.

Lesson opener:

Greet children, perhaps already with your pool gear.

Recommended possibilities: inner tubes, floaty wings, foot flippers, goggles, noodles, beach towel, sunscreen, etc.