



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 23:

**Jesus Talks to
the Woman at the Well**

Scripture

John 4:1-42

Memory Verse

Jesus said: “My food is to do what God wants! He is the one who sent me, and I must finish the work that He gave me to do.” John 4:34 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that the Samaritan woman knew only of her need for physical water.

Understand that Jesus answered the needs the Samaritan woman didn't know she had.

Understand that the Samaritan woman shared her Good News with others.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Have you ever been so busy doing something that you wouldn't even stop to eat? It must have been something that you really enjoyed or that you thought was very important. That also happened to Jesus! Let's find out why.

The Bible tells us that Jesus left the region of Judea and headed north toward Galilee. He needed to pass through Samaria to get from Judea to Galilee. Jesus passed through Samaria not just because it separated Judea from Galilee, but because it is what God wanted Him to do.

Traveling through Samaria, Jesus stopped in a town called Sychar. “It was near the piece of land Jacob had given his son Joseph [many years ago]. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey. So He sat down by the well. It was about noon.” (John 4:5 NIV) Jesus was alone because the well was generally outside of town and His disciples had gone into town to buy something for lunch.

While Jesus was there, a woman from town came to get some water. This was very unusual because the women usually went to the well in the evening or in the morning, but almost never during the middle of the day.* Jesus asked the woman for a drink of water. You see, anyone who came to a well for water brought their own bucket and rope to get the water with.* Jesus had none of these things, but this woman had come with her water jar, bucket and rope.

The Samaritan woman was surprised that Jesus spoke to her. Jewish men didn't usually speak to Samaritan women, or Samaritan men either. They were like enemies; they didn't usually get along with each other.

Jesus didn't really address the physical issue of Samaritan vs. Jew with the woman. Instead, Jesus talked about the spiritual, just as He had done with Nicodemus. “Jesus answered, ‘You don't know what God wants to give you, and you don't know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would ask Me for the water that gives life.’” (John 4:10 CEV) And like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman was still focused on the physical. All she could think of was that Jesus didn't have anything to get the water out of that deep well. “Where can you get this living water?” she asked. . . . “Are you more important than [Jacob] is” who gave us this well? (John 4:11b, 12b NIV)

Then, Jesus explained things. “Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 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.’” (John 4:13-14 NLT) Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit who is given to those who chose to follow Jesus.

Application

What is it that is most important to you? Do you spend most of your time involved with the physical things of this world that only last a short time? (James 4:14)

Or can you say with Jesus “My food is to do what God wants! . . . I must finish the work that He gave me to do?” John 4:34 (CEV)

If you haven’t yet believed that God sent His Son for you, that is the first step. Will you take that step of faith today?

If you have chosen to follow Jesus, are you aware of the people around you, the harvest, that are waiting for someone to lead them into a relationship with God? Are you willing to be the one? Don’t be afraid. Pray for boldness and be obedient!

Remember, Jesus hasn’t returned, yet, because He is patient. There are people who don’t know Him yet, and He doesn’t want them to die separated from Him. He wants everyone to turn away from their sins. (2 Peter 3:9)

Even though she still didn’t completely understand, she asked Jesus for some of the water He was giving, thinking she wouldn’t have to come to the well anymore. Jesus, knowing everything about this woman, asked her to go and bring her husband. She answered Jesus honestly, “I don’t have a husband.” Then, Jesus told the Samaritan woman what He knew about her. He knew that she didn’t have a husband, but that she had been married five times before. He also knew that she was living with someone who wasn’t her husband.

When she heard this, she knew Jesus must be some kind of prophet sent with a message from God. “The woman said, ‘I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, He will explain everything to us.’ Then Jesus told her, ‘I AM the Messiah!’” (John 4:25-26 NLT)

When the disciples returned, they were surprised to find Jesus talking with a woman, but no one would ask Him about it. Then, the woman left her water jar and went back into town. She told the people of the town about Jesus and how He knew everything about her. While the Samaritan woman was in town, the disciples encouraged Jesus to eat. Jesus wasn’t hungry for physical food. “Jesus said: ‘My food is to do what God wants! He is the one who sent me, and I must finish the work that He gave me to do.’” (John 4:34 CEV) The work that God gave Jesus to do included the harvest all around them. This wasn’t a harvest of wheat that would be ready in four months; instead it was a harvest of people who were ready at that moment to know God and follow Him. Jesus wanted His disciples to open their eyes and see the spiritual growth that was taking place all around them. The disciples may not have worked for days or months or even years teaching these people about God and the gift of His Son, but they would have a part in leading them into a relationship with the God who loved them enough to send that Son.

People from the village of Sychar began to come to Jesus. They believed in Him because of what the Samaritan woman had told them, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” (John 4:39 NIV) Jesus stayed there, in Samaria, two more days. “Because of His words, many more people became believers. They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said. We have now heard for ourselves. We know that this Man really is the Savior of the world.’” (John 4:41-42 NIV)

Wight, Fred D. Manners and Customs of Bible Lands. Moody Press, Chicago. 1953. pp 89, 90.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Has the Power to Heal



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a bucket of water and some cups. Also, bring a map of Israel.

After Jesus had a late night visit with Nicodemus, He left the city of Jerusalem. He left the area of Judea and headed north with His disciples. (*Point out places on the map.*) Jesus and His disciples were headed for Galilee, but they had to go through the area of Samaria to get there.

Jewish people, like Jesus and His disciples, didn't like the people of Samaria. They were enemies. Jesus didn't want anything to do with the hating and fighting. As He and His disciples traveled through Samaria, they stopped at the town of Sychar (S-eye-car).

It was noon when they stopped just outside of Sychar at the town well. The disciples went to look for food. Jesus waited at the well. Jesus couldn't get any water for Himself because he didn't have a rope or a bucket to pull the water up with. When a woman came with her jar to get water for her household, Jesus asked her for a drink.

The woman knew that Jews and Samaritans didn't get along. She was surprised that Jesus talked to her. She was surprised that He asked her for a drink of water.

Jesus told the woman that He could give her something even more important than the water she came to the well for every day. He could give her eternal life! And when Jesus told her things about her life, "everything she had ever done," she believed that He was the One God had promised to send.

The Samaritan woman ran to town and told the people about Jesus. They believed what she said. When they heard Jesus teach, they said, "We know that this Man really is the Savior of the world!" (John 4:42 NIV)

Do you know that Jesus is the Savior of the world? Who can you tell?



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Print each word of the memory verse on small cards in the shape of sandwich bread. Be sure to include the reference. String yarn from the back of one chair to another and attach the bread shaped cards, in random order, to the yarn. Encourage your students to put the memory verse in order, practicing as you go.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring blue gelatin cups for the snack. Talk about the well and the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman.
- Make small, clay pinch pots to resemble the water jar that the Samaritan woman used.
- Sing “Fill My Cup, Lord,” “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Find Judea, Samaria, and Galilee on a map of Israel. Find Sychar in the region of Samaria.
- Dig Deeper: Read Jeremiah 17:13, John 4:10-11, and John 7:38-39. Discuss “living water.”

Jesus said:
“**My food** is to do what
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one who sent me,
and I must
finish the work
that He gave me to do.
John 4:34

Trace the letters.

Jesus is the

SAVIOR

of the world!

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?





Word Search

W Y O H R W O G D O D O Y Y O
O N E A N D O N L Y S O N J Y
E G D V O W R D O Y U H E U M
V E V E R Y O N E S E S T R I
I D U E W O R G R G U E W D H
L K R O W E H T H S I N I F N
N G D E O W R V E Y L T O O I
W D L R O W E H M D E M O L S
O O H E I S T H E O N E H R E
R D O A D R O E V U O C E D V
U N W L O U R W A R U O V O E
O S T N A W D O G T A H W O D
Y H S I R E P T E N L L I F L
O Y S F A I N S H A S S E Y E
U O Y E U R W O R D R O W M B

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

Jesus said:

“My food is to do what God wants!”

He is the one who sent me,

and I must finish the work that He gave me to do.”

John 4:34



Word Search

W Y O H R W O G D O D O Y Y O
 O N E A N D O N L Y S O N J Y
 E G D V O W R D O Y U H E U M
 V E V E R Y O N E S E S T R I
 I D U E W O R G R G U E W D H
L K R O W E H T H S I N I F N
 N G D E O W R V E Y L T O O I
 W D L R O W E H M D E M O L S
 O O H E I S T H E O N E H R E
 R D O A D R O E V U O C E D V
 U N W L O U R W A R U O V O E
O S T N A W D O G T A H W O D
 Y H S I R E P T E N L L I F L
 O Y S F A I N S H A S S E Y E
 U O Y E U R W O R D R O W M B

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Preschool Word Search

R F I M A I O N D R E D
S L A T J E S U S T E E
H A R I G U W O M A N S
R I V A N G I D W A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
Q W E L L I O N S E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D D R I N K E E S U S
M D I L E W A T E R T S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N Q U E S T S J
P N I C O D E M J A R N

JESUS

WELL

WOMAN

JAR

DRINK

WATER



Preschool Word Search

R F I M A I O N D R E D
S L A T J E S U S T E E
H A R I G U W O M A N S
R I V A N G I D W A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
Q W E L L I O N S E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D D R I N K E E S U S
M D I L E W A T E R T S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N Q U E S T S J
P N I C O D E M J A R N

JESUS

WELL

WOMAN

JAR

DRINK

WATER