

Why Tell Others About Jesus

Lesson 31

John 4:1-42

Memory Verse

We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20

Introduction

Explain that during the time of Jesus, people had to get water in a different way. People had to draw water from a well.

Scripture

John 4:1-5
The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Discussion

Ask: What did Jesus do that was unusual?

As Jesus was going from place to place, He stopped at a town called Sychar (Sigh-car). This town was in an area that people of Jesus' race would never enter. Jews did not have anything to do with Samaritans. Samaritans, like the Jews, believed they were God's chosen people. But 800 years earlier there were religious and racial tensions that developed between the two groups. Jews mixed with other ethnic groups and races and developed into the Samaritan race.

John 4:6-8

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Ask: What else did Jesus do that was unusual?

Jesus did a very unusual thing. He went to the town. By this time it was the afternoon and Jesus was hot and thirsty. He stopped beside a well (explain to the kids what a well is) while His friends went into town to buy food. Just then, a woman came out with a jug to get some water. She was surprised to see someone at the well. Most people got their water when it was cooler outside.

Jesus spoke to her, asking for a drink.

John 4:9

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.

Ask: What was the Samaritan woman's reaction?

The woman was shocked. You see--in that time, men did not talk to women or boys to girls. Also, people of Jesus' race did not talk to the Samaritans.

The woman asked Jesus why He was speaking to her.

John 4:10

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."

Ask: What did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman?

Jesus replied by saying that He could give her living water so she never would be thirsty again. She was curious. She was tired of getting water from a well every day. She thought that if she could get this living water, she would never have to come to the well again.

John 4:13-14

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Ask: What was Jesus talking about?

Jesus, however, was talking about Heaven, not real water. The water Jesus was talking about produces eternal life in us. God is the source of that eternal life.

John 4:16-18

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 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."

Ask: What else did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman?

Jesus asked her to get her husband. She told him only part of the truth. She said that she didn't have a husband. Jesus replied by telling her that she had had five husbands and she was living with another man.

Ask: What was the Samaritan woman's reaction?

The woman was surprised that He knew so much about her life. She knew He had to be someone special, but she had no idea that He was God's Son!

John 4:25-26

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Ask: What else did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman?

After talking to the woman some more, Jesus explained that He was God's Son.

John 4:28-29

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Ask: What was the Samaritan woman's reaction?

The woman was full of joy! She ran to tell the news to the people of the town just as Jesus' friends were coming back from getting food. She told the people how Jesus knew everything about her and how He might be God's Son.

John 4:39-42

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. 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."

Ask: How did the Samaritans react?

Many people came to see Jesus and they believed in Him just like the woman did. They were very thankful to the woman for running and telling everyone the good news of Jesus. The woman was happy because Jesus had changed her life. She was excited and wanted to tell everyone she knew about Jesus.

Ask: What should we do?

You can tell people about Jesus too. He is the best news that you can share!

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants us to know Him and to know His love. But God does not force us to follow Him. He waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.

Application