

# Leader BIBLE STUDY

At the time Jesus was on earth, the social food chain went like this: Jews don't talk to Samaritans. The strife between the two groups stretched back hundreds of years, to the Babylonian exile.

3 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 their beliefs. They set up their own place of worship on Mount Gerizim. (See 2 Kings 17:29-41; Ezra 9:1-2.)

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, and 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 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."

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

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# Preschool BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

**Bible Passage:** John 4:1-26

**Big Picture Question:** Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.

**Key Passage:** John 3:16

**Unit Christ Connection:** Jesus was revealed as the fulfillment of Scripture, the promised Savior.

## Small Group Opening

(15–20 minutes)

## Large Group Bible Study

(10–15 minutes)

## Small Group Activities

(20–25 minutes)

## Snack and Transition

(20 minutes)

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# The BIBLE STORY

## Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

*John 4:1-26*

**Jesus had been teaching in the land of Judea**, and a special group of men started to follow Him. The men were Jesus' friends, and they were called His disciples. Many people began following Jesus, and they listened to Him teach. **Now it was time for Jesus to leave Judea.**

**So Jesus began traveling back to the land of Galilee.** Between the land of Judea and the land of Galilee was the land of Samaria. Usually God's people, the Jews, stayed away from Samaria. Even though traveling through Samaria was the fastest way home, they traveled around the land. The Jews did not get along with the people in Samaria.

But Jesus was not like the other Jews. **On His way home, He traveled right through the land of Samaria. He even stopped at one of the towns where there was a well.** A well is a deep hole where people can get water out of the ground. Jesus stayed at the well, and His friends went into town to buy food.

**The sun was high in the sky, and Jesus was tired from traveling. A woman who lived in Samaria came to the well to get water. Jesus said to the woman, "Give Me a drink."**

**The woman was surprised.** "You are a Jew," she said. **"Why are you talking to me? I am a Samaritan."**

**Jesus said, "I asked you for a drink. You do not know who I am. If you did, 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.

**"Sir," the woman said, "this well is deep, and you do not have a bucket. Where do You get 'living water'?"**

**"Anyone who drinks the water from this well will be thirsty again," Jesus said, "but anyone who drinks the water I give will never, ever get thirsty again!"** That sounded wonderful! Jesus wasn't talking about actual water. He said that living water is like a well in your heart that never runs out. Anyone who has living water will have eternal life. Now, Jesus was

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talking about God's Spirit, but the woman did not know that.

**“Sir, I want living water,” she said. “If I am never, ever thirsty again, I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water with my bucket.”**

“Go get your husband and come back here,” Jesus said.

“I do not have a husband,” the woman said.

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 worshiping God. Then **she said, “I know the Messiah is coming.** When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

**Jesus said, “The Messiah is talking to you now. I am the Messiah.”**

*Christ Connection: Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn't have many friends. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.*

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# Small Group OPENING

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- “The Only Name (Yours Will Be)” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys

## Welcome and Session Starter (15–20 minutes)

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.



- “Match the Water Jars” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or crayons

## Activity Page: Match the Water Jars

Help preschoolers complete the activity page. Explain to them that people in Bible times did not have running water like we do today. People needed to draw water from a well every day. Getting water from a well was a lot of work!

**Say** • Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink of water.

How unusual! Jesus was a Jew, and Jews did not talk to people from Samaria. But Jesus showed the woman that He loved her. *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

## Make play dough wells

Give each child a chunk of play dough. Instruct kids to form buckets with their play dough. Assist them as they work. If available, show pictures of a well from Bible times or an image of a cross-section of a well descending below the

- play dough
- “Bible Times Well”
- cross-section of well from the Internet (optional)

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water table from the Internet. Explain that people who lived when Jesus lived did not have faucets, water fountains, or refrigerators to get their water from. They used buckets to draw the water directly from the ground. Tell kids this is how some people still get their water today.

**Say** • In our Bible story today, Jesus was tired from His journey, so He stopped near a well. He talked with a woman who was a Samaritan. Normally, Jews didn't talk to people from Samaria, but Jesus was different. Jesus loves everyone.

### How many cups?

- bucket
- water
- cup
- plastic tub
- towels for cleanup

Place a bucket inside a plastic tub. Ask the children how many cups of water it would take to fill up the bucket. Pour cups of water, one at a time, into the bucket. Keep track of the number of cups you pour by counting aloud together. Fill the bucket all the way to the top.

**Say** • Today's Bible story took place at a well. A well is a hole that goes deep enough to reach the water in the ground so a person can draw water from it. Jesus met a woman near this well, and they talked about water—regular water and a very special kind of water. Listen carefully to the Bible story to learn what that special water is.

### Transition to Bible study

- cones, chairs, or barricade
- countdown video (optional)

Place cones, chairs, or another barricade between the small group and large group areas. Kids must walk around the barricade. They may not take the fastest route; they will avoid certain areas like the Jews avoided Samaria.

**Say** • Jews did not like to go through Samaria when they traveled. But Jesus was not like other people. He went through Samaria and rested at a well there.

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# Large Group BIBLE STUDY

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## Large Group Bible Study (10–15 minutes)

### Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- “God So Loved” song

Read the key passage aloud several times, using motions. You may also sing “God So Loved.” Remind the children that the key passage is about Jesus, God’s One and Only Son. Explain that eternal life is life with God forever.

Play a game of “Stand Up If ...” Kids will stand up if they meet certain qualifications. For example, “Stand up if you’re wearing blue” or “Stand up if you’re four years old.” At the end say, “Stand up if Jesus loves you.” Lead every preschooler to stand.

**Say** • Today we’ll see that Jesus loved a woman whom most Jews didn’t care about. The woman was from Samaria, and she had made some bad choices. But Jesus still loved her. *Jesus loves everyone*—no matter what.

### Watch or tell the Bible story

- “Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman” video
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

**Say** • Our Bible story today is found in the Book of John. [*Open your Bible to the Book of John.*] This book is in the New Testament. It was written by one of Jesus’ disciples. Tell the Bible story with your Bible open to John 4 or watch the video “Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman.”

**Say** • The Samaritan woman must have been surprised

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when Jesus began speaking to her! It was very unusual for Jesus' people, the Jews, to speak kindly to Samaritans. Jesus told the woman that He is the Messiah, the One God had promised to send to rescue people from sin.

### Talk about the Bible story

Refer to the timeline map as you review the Bible story.

- Timeline Map
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

1. What was the land between Judea and Galilee called? (*Samaria*)
2. Did the Jews like to go to Samaria? (*No*)
3. Did the Jews like the people in Samaria? (*No*)
4. **Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.**
5. What did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman who came to the well? (*Jesus said, "Give Me a drink."*)
6. What kind of water did Jesus say He could give the woman? (*living water*)
7. What was Jesus talking about? (*God's Spirit*)

**Say** • The fact that Jesus talked to this woman from Samaria was very strange. Most Jews thought they were better than Samaritans. Jesus was different from other people. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn't have many friends. **Jesus loves everyone**, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

### Transition to small groups

As you transition back to small groups, remove the barricades so the children can take the fastest route. Point out how much easier it is to travel when kids don't have to go all the way around the obstacles.

Tip: Do activities one of these ways:

- as a group, all at the same time
- in small groups that rotate through each activity
- set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose

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# Small Group Activities

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Tip: Set up activities that work well for your kids and your budget.

## Small Group Activities (20–25 minutes)

Talk about the big picture question and answer, Christ connection, or details from the Bible story in each activity to reinforce God’s big story.



- water-themed puzzles
- magazines or water images from the Internet (optional)
- scissors, cardboard, and glue (optional)

### Work water puzzles

Provide puzzles with water themes, such as oceans, rivers, lakes, and so forth. Invite the children to work together to complete the puzzles.

If you don’t have water-themed puzzles, create puzzles by gluing pictures of water from the Internet or magazines onto cardboard. Cut the pictures into puzzle pieces.

**Say** • Have you ever been to the beach? Have you ever fished in a lake or a river? [*Allow children time to talk about their water stories.*]

Jesus told the woman about a special kind of water called living water. Jesus wasn’t talking about the water we splash in or drink, He was talking about God’s Spirit. Jesus offered the woman God’s Spirit because He loved her. ***Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.***

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## Draw water from a well

- blocks, chairs, blankets, or other building materials
- buckets

Invite the children to build a “well” using blocks, chairs, blankets, or other building materials. Provide buckets so the children can play out the Bible story. Consider letting the children take turns telling the story.

**Say** • Jesus told the woman at the well that He could give her living water, which is God’s Spirit. Jesus loved the Samaritan woman and wanted her to know God’s love.

*Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

## Talk about living water

- “Living Water”
- blue art supplies (crayons, markers, watercolors, finger paints, tissue paper, and so forth)
- hand wipes (for cleanup)

Provide a variety of blue art supplies such as crayons, markers, watercolors, finger paints, tissue paper, and so forth. Give each kid a “Living Water” page. Read the message: *Jesus will give you living water!*

Assist the kids as they decorate the page with the art supplies. Remind them that living water is God’s Spirit. We receive God’s Spirit when we turn away from sin and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**Say** • Jesus gives living water to everyone who believes in Him. *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

## Color the people Jesus loves

- large piece of paper
- crayons and markers
- tape

Spread a large piece of paper on a table and gather the children around it. You may also tape the paper to the wall, mural-style. Give kids markers or crayons so they can draw faces of all different kinds of people.

If you teach younger preschoolers, use a permanent marker before class to outline heads and bodies of people of all different sizes and shapes. Provide crayons and markers for the children to color in the outlines. Hang the paper on the wall. Then gather the kids in a circle.

**Say** • The people in our mural are very different, just like us! God made every person unique, and He loves every

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single one of us. Do you know what? It doesn't matter where you live, what you look like, or even the wrong choices you've made—God still loves you. He sent Jesus to die for you and rescue you from sin. ***Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.***

### **Worship the Messiah**

- musical or rhythm instruments
- "The Only Name (Yours Will Be)" song (optional)
- "God So Loved" song (optional)

Read John 4:19-25 to the kids. Talk about how the Samaritan woman recognized that Jesus was very wise.

**Say** • In our Bible story, the woman knew Jesus was wise and special, so she asked Him a question about worshiping God. She also said she knew God's Messiah was coming. Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah."

This is such good news! Jesus is the One who came to take away sin so that all people from all places can worship God wherever they are. Let's worship Jesus the Messiah together!

Pass out musical instruments and sing the unit theme song or one of your favorite worship songs as a class. Invite kids to dance or hop in place as they listen to the worship songs.

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## **Snack and Transition (20 minutes)**

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities time and gather for snack time. Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack; remind children during snack time to say please and thank you. Thank God for the snack.

Invite the children to sit by someone they have not sat beside today. Remind them that in Samaria, Jesus spoke to a woman He had never met.

Consider serving flavored water or filtered water instead of juice with your snack today. As kids eat their snack and drink their water, talk about how water is refreshing and good for our bodies. Read John 4:13-14 to the kids. Pray that preschoolers will one day receive the living water Jesus offers.

### **Transition**

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons

When a child finishes his snack and throws away any trash, he may select a puzzle or book to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring picture. This would also be a great time to encourage the preschoolers to draw a picture on the journal page of someone they love and whom Jesus loves too!

Lead the children through a prayer time, asking God to show them how much He loves them. Ask God to give the children hearts like Jesus, who loves all people no matter what they look like or where they come from.

## Jesus' Early Ministry

**Key Passage:** John 3:16

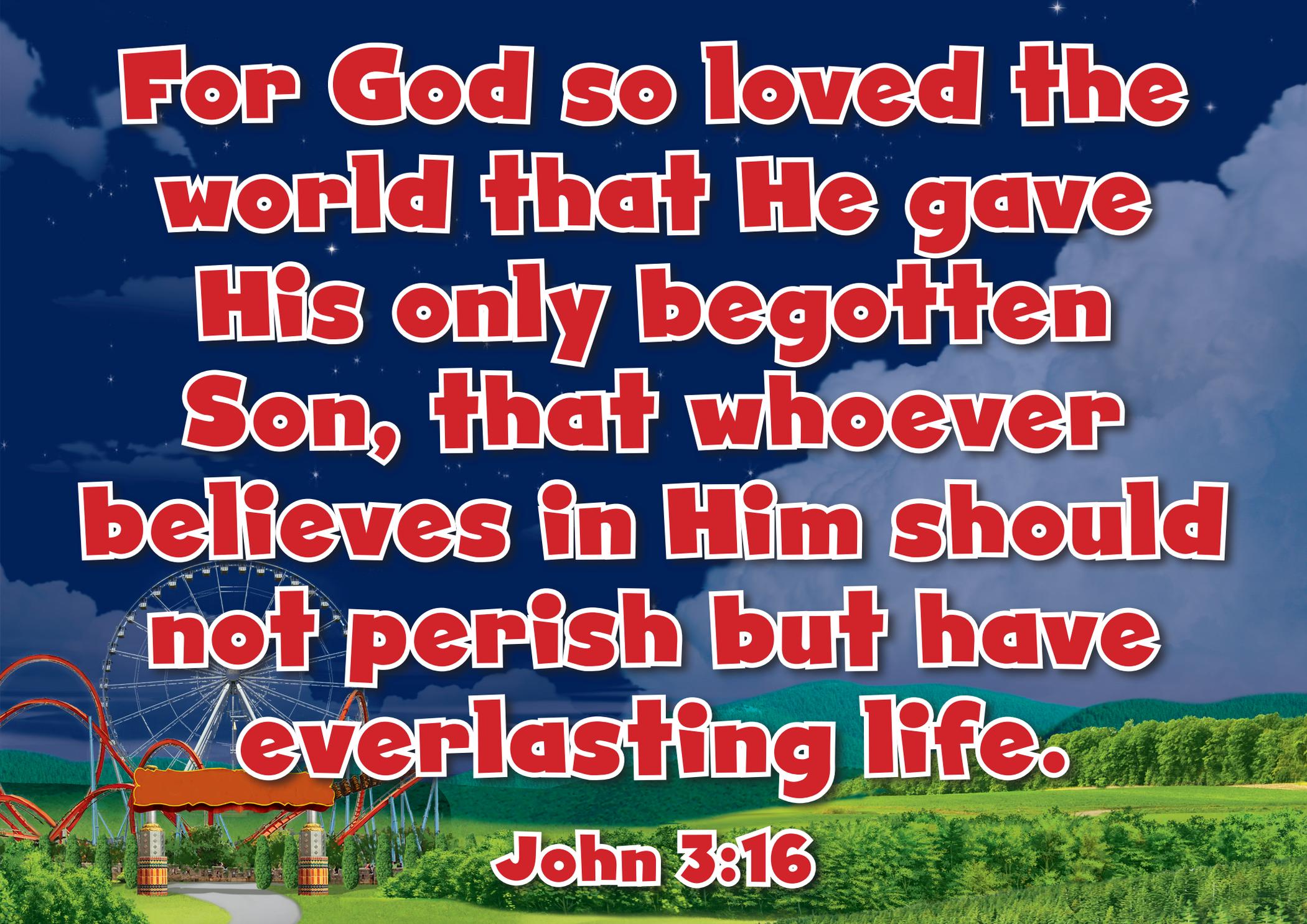
**Session 1:** Jesus Met Nicodemus  
*John 3:1-21*

**Session 2:** Jesus and John the Baptist  
*John 3:22-36*

**Session 3:** Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman  
*John 4:1-26*

**Session 4:** Rejection at Nazareth  
*Luke 4:16-30*





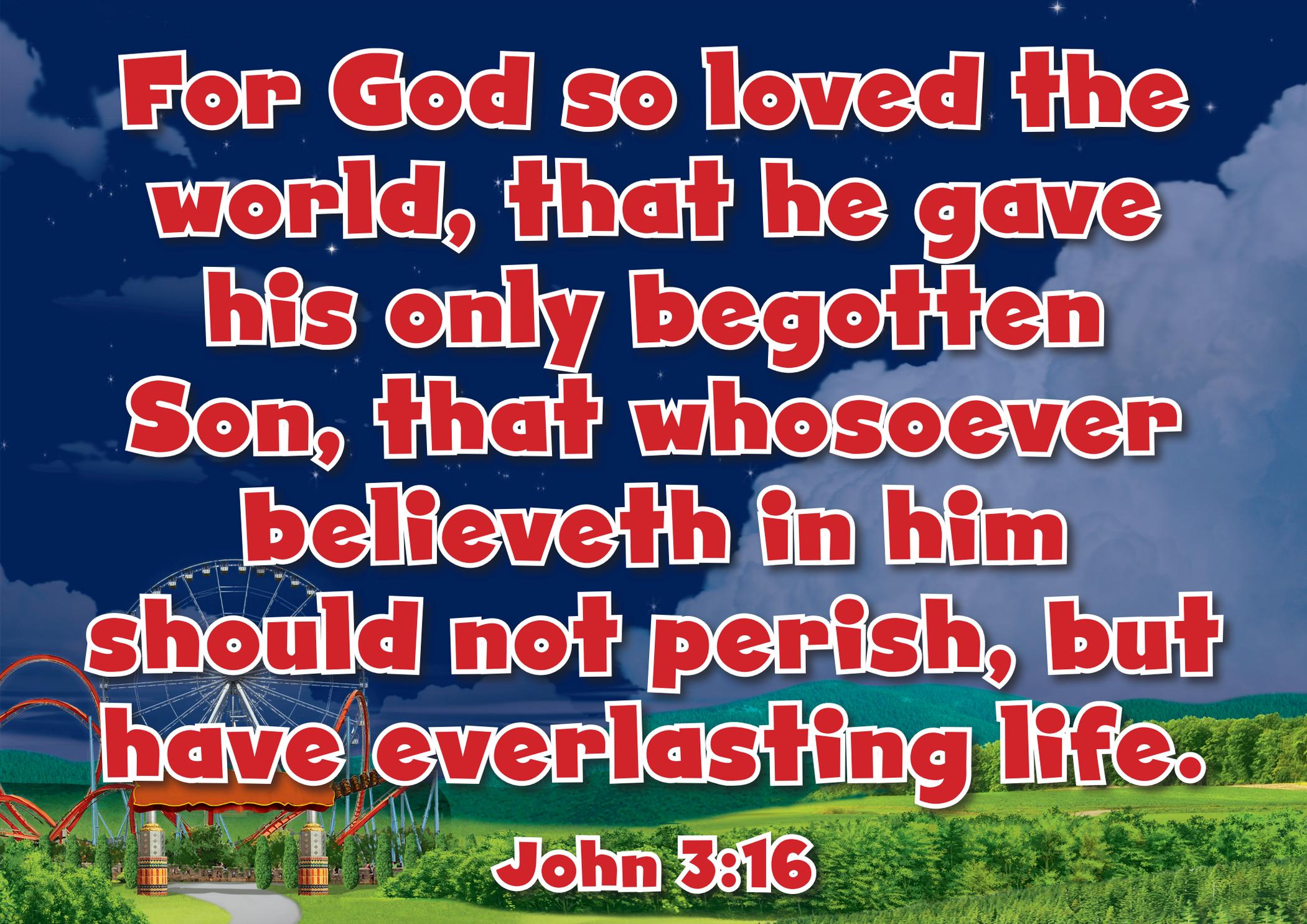
**For God so loved the  
world that He gave  
His only begotten  
Son, that whoever  
believes in Him should  
not perish but have  
everlasting life.**

**John 3:16**



**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**



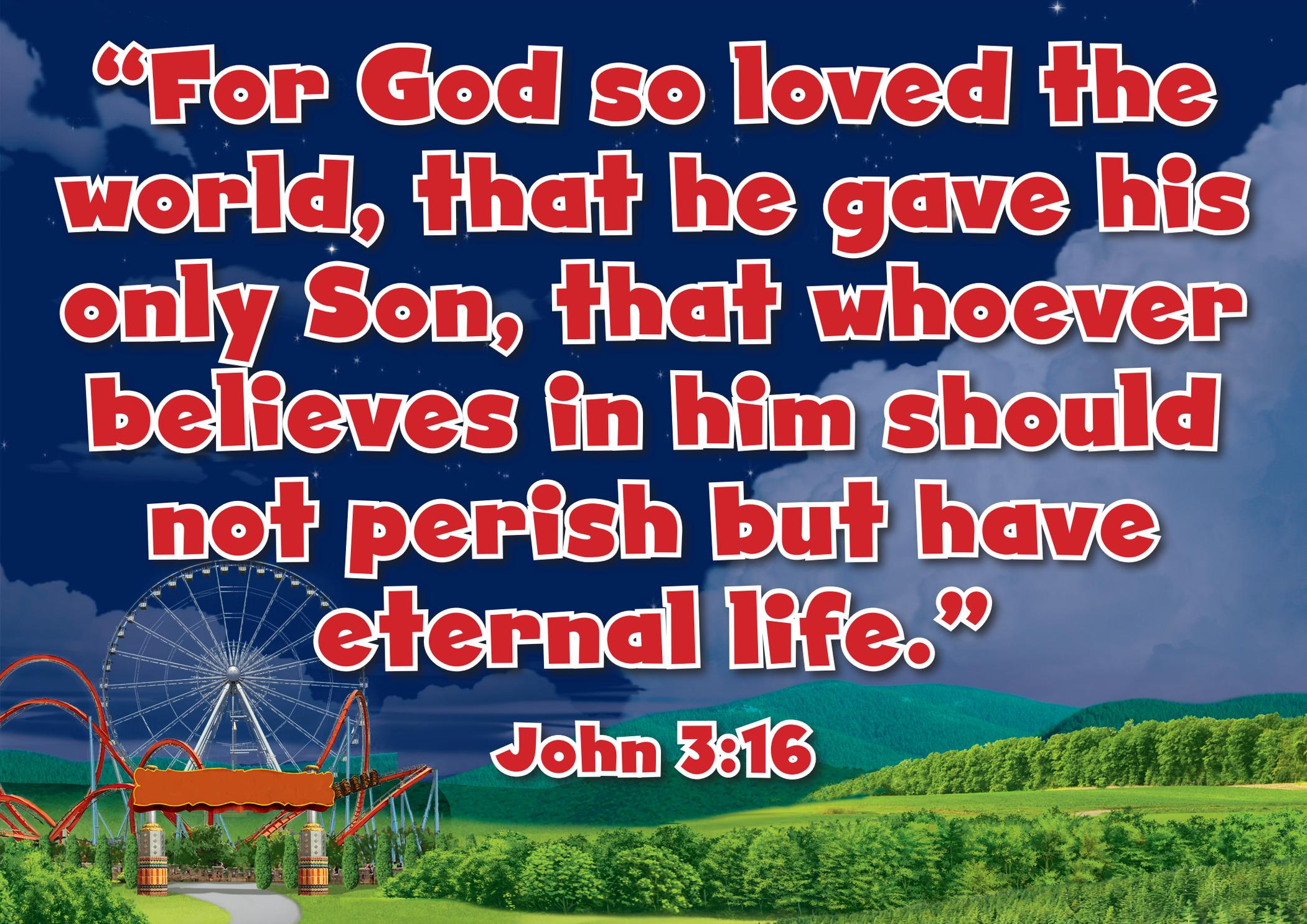
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have everlasting life.**

**John 3:16**



**“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”**

**John 3:16**



**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”**

**John 3:16**



# Whom does Jesus love?

# Whom does Jesus love?

## Jesus loves everyone.







# Match the Water Jars

**Instructions:** A Samaritan woman went to the well to get water, and she met Jesus there! Can you find which jar belongs to the Samaritan woman? Circle the matching jar.  
Circle the matching jar.





Today your child will be  
**tasting/touching/sniffing**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please notify a teacher  
if your child should not  
participate in this activity.



**Instructions:** Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.

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# GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



### GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



### WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



### GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



### JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*

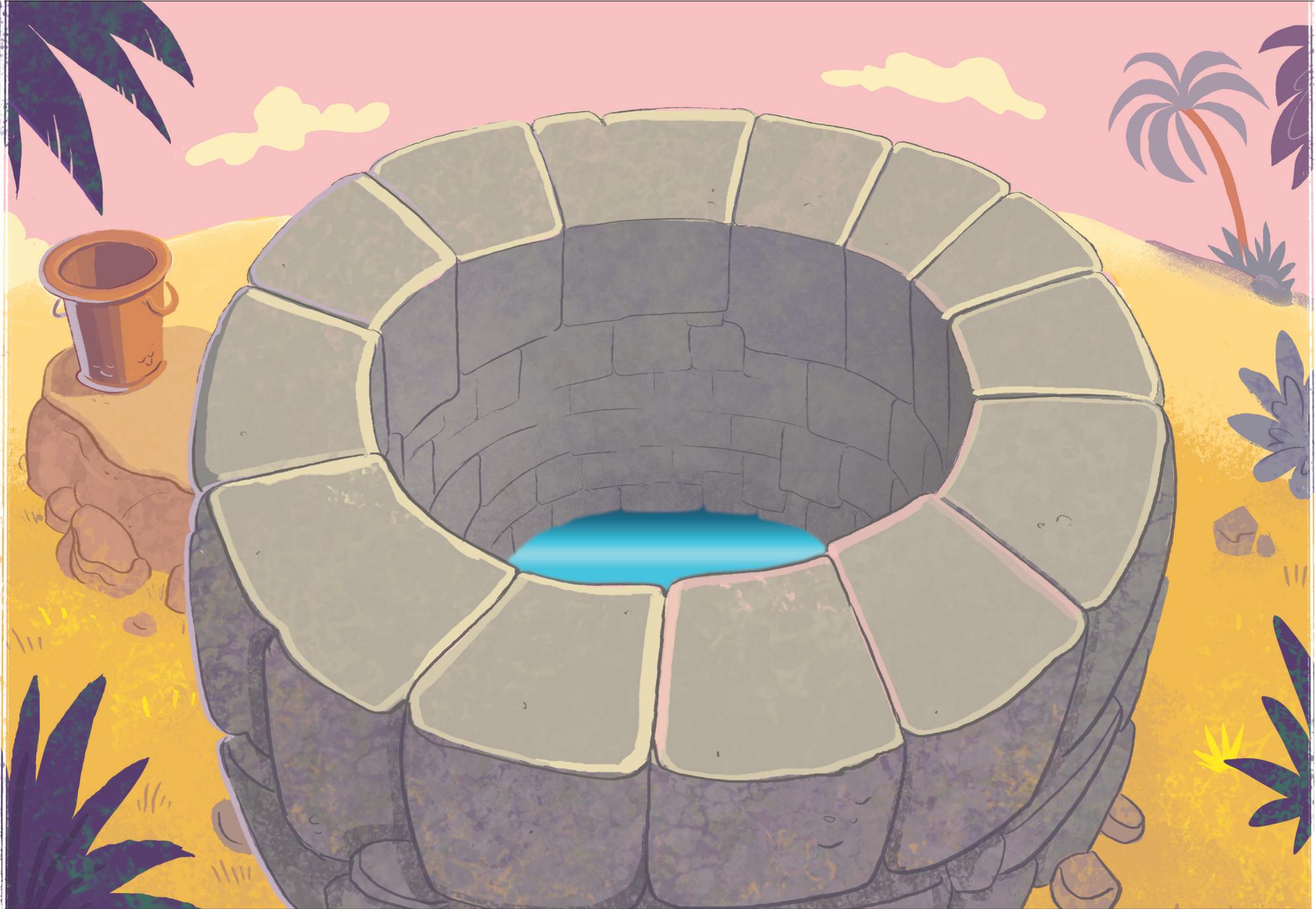


### WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

# Bible Times Well

**Instructions:** Print the Bible times well and invite kids to examine the picture. Talk about how people in Bible times would use a well to get water.



Jesus will  
give you  
living water!