

Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 4:1-42

MAIN POINT: Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

(10–15 MINUTES)

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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(25–30 MINUTES)

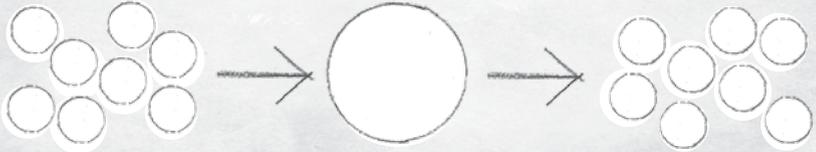
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(25–30 MINUTES)

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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.

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.

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."

Explain to kids that 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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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Set the scene:** Use props such as a chair or bench as the edge of a well, a bucket, and a large water pot.
- **Use dramatic dialogue:** Stand in one spot when telling Jesus's words. Then turn and face that spot as you speak the woman's words.

Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-42

Jesus had been making disciples in Judea, and His disciples baptized people. Now Jesus had more followers than John the Baptist. **Jesus began traveling back to Galilee. He traveled through Samaria and stopped in a town at the well. Jesus' disciples went into town to buy food.**

While Jesus was at the well, a Samaritan woman came to get water from the well.

“Give Me a drink,” Jesus said to the woman.

The woman was surprised. “You’re a Jew,” she said. “Why are You talking to me? I’m a Samaritan.”

Jesus said, “I asked you for a drink. You don’t know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Me for a drink, and I would give you living water.”

The woman was confused. “Sir,” she said, “This well is deep, and You don’t have a bucket. Where do You get this ‘living water’?”

Jesus said, “Anyone who drinks this well water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water I give will never, ever get thirsty again! In fact, the water I give will become a well inside you, and you will have eternal life.” Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, but the woman did not understand.

“Sir,” she said, “give me this water. If I’m not thirsty, I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water.”

“Go get your husband,” Jesus said.

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus knew she was telling the truth. He said, **“You don’t have a husband now, but you’ve had five husbands.”**

Jesus was right. “I see You are a prophet,” the woman said. Maybe this prophet could explain something to her. She said, “The Samaritans worship here on a mountain, but the Jews say we need to worship at the temple in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said, “Soon you will not need to be in either of those places to worship God in spirit and in truth.”

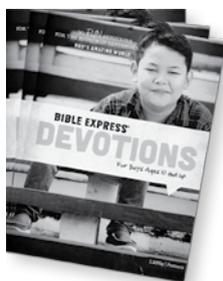
The woman said, **“I know the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”**

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

The woman left and told the people in her town, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?”

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. They asked Jesus to stay with them, and He stayed for two days. Many more believed because of what Jesus said. They told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

Christ Connection: Jesus offered the woman something no one else could give her—living water. Jesus wasn't talking about water that she could physically drink; Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit who would satisfy her spiritual thirst. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who come to Him by faith.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that the Samaritan woman went home to tell others about Jesus. Peter and John later said that Christians can't help but share the good news! (Acts 4:20) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 4:1-42

MAIN POINT: Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.

Welcome time

- small cups of water (optional)

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Ask kids to share about their favorite things to drink. Consider providing small cups of water for kids to drink as everyone arrives.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Never Thirst Again” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Never Thirst Again” on the activity page. Provide blue and yellow crayons for kids to color in the spaces and directed.

SAY • Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a woman Jesus met at a well. What did Jesus say He could give the woman? (*living water*) Listen to our story to see if you can figure out what Jesus meant.



LOW PREP

- chairs, 2
- Bibles, 1 per kid

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Boys versus girls

Form two teams: boys and girls. Instruct them to sit in two lines on the floor. Set up two chairs at the front of the room and call the first kid in each line to sit in a chair.

Call out a letter. The first player to name a book of the

Bible that begins with that letter earns a point for his or her team. Play additional rounds with new players.

Suggested letters: *E, G, H, J, L, M, N, P, R, T.*

SAY • Today's Bible story is about a time when Jesus stopped and talked to a woman from Samaria. Jewish men usually did not speak to women in public, but Jesus was not like other Jews. Jesus loves everyone. We will find out more about what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman.

Tip: If kids are stumped, guide them to look at the table of contents in their Bibles.

OPTION 2: Water relay

Form two teams of kids. Instruct each team to form a single-file line. Position a bucket of water at the front of each line and an empty bucket at the end of each line. Give each kid a plastic cup. Announce these instructions:

1. The first player should scoop water into her cup and then pour the water into the second player's cup.
2. The second player will pour the water into the third player's cup, and so on down the line.
3. The last player will dump the water into the empty bucket.
4. As soon as the first player empties her cup, she may scoop more water to pass down the line.

The first team to move all of its water to the bucket wins.

SAY • In today's Bible story, Jesus met a woman at a well. The woman had to walk to the well every day to get water. Jesus offered the woman living water so she would never be thirsty again. Let's find out what Jesus was talking about.

- plastic cups, 1 per kid
- buckets, 4
- water
- towels for cleanup (optional)

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• Bibles
• bottles of water
• poster board
• marker

[Large Group Leader enters and stands next to a table with Bibles and bottles of water. The table is labeled with a poster that says, Ask Anything!]

LEADER • Greetings, everyone! It sure is good to see you again. This is the third day I've had my booth set up at the city street festival, and let me tell you—I have met so many interesting people!

All types of people come to the street festival. Interacting with them at my booth and answering their questions reminds me that Jesus loves all types of people! He didn't come to earth to save just one group of people; He offers salvation to everyone—no matter where they live, what language they speak, or what they look like.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • We have been focusing on one big picture

question. Does anyone remember what it is? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Our question is, **Who did Jesus say He is?** I'll say the answer, and then you say it with me: **Jesus said He is the Messiah.** [*Lead kids to repeat the big picture answer.*]

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle. Point out previous Bible stories as you briefly review. Then point out today's story, "Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman."

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

LEADER • When Jesus began His ministry, He met all sorts of interesting people. First, we learned about Jesus and Nicodemus. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, and **Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again.**

Then John the Baptist met Jesus. John told his followers about Jesus. John explained that **Jesus came from heaven to earth** and that people should follow Jesus. Today we are going to hear about a time when Jesus met a Samaritan woman. *Samaritan* is what you call someone from the land of Samaria. Are you ready?

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 4:1-42. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman."

• Bibles
• "Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

LEADER • Jesus had been in Judea with His disciples. When it was time to go back to Galilee, Jesus and His disciples started traveling north.

Between the land of Judea and the land of Galilee was the land of Samaria. Most Jews did not travel through Samaria; they went around instead. Can

anyone tell me why the Jews would do that? (*Jews and Samaritans did not get along.*)

But Jesus was not like other Jews. He loves everyone, and He traveled right through the land of Samaria. Jesus and the disciples came to a town. The disciples went to get something to eat, and Jesus sat down at a well. He was tired from traveling.

A woman from that area came to the well to get water. What did Jesus say to the woman? (“*Give Me a drink.*”) The woman was surprised that Jesus, a Jew, was talking to her, a Samaritan.

Jesus offered the woman living water. He said that this water was a gift from God. Jesus wasn’t talking about actual water like the water that came from the well. He was talking about the Holy Spirit. [*See John 7:37-39.*]

When the woman said that she was waiting for the Messiah to come, ***who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.*** The woman went back to her town and told people what Jesus said. Many people in Samaria believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. When they spent time with Jesus, they knew for sure that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Christ connection

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

LEADER • Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah. He offered the woman something no one else could give her—living water. Jesus wasn’t talking about water that she could physically drink; Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit who would satisfy her spiritual thirst. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who come to Him by faith.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 14:6.

- Key Passage Poster
- “I Am the Way” song

LEADER • Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the

Messiah—the One who would rescue people from sin and bring them to God. Our key passage tells us that Jesus is the only way to get to God. Only those who trust in Him receive eternal life.

Lead boys and girls to sing “I Am the Way.”

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Jesus offered the Samaritan woman living water.

He promised she would never be thirsty again.

Doesn't that sound wonderful? If you had something wonderful to offer people, would you share it or keep it for yourself? Think about that and watch this.

Show the “Unit 21, Session 3” discussion starter video.

Guide kids to discuss the following questions:

- How do you think the thirsty kids felt when the boy ignored their need for a drink?
- If you had something to drink and saw someone who was thirsty, would you share it? Why or why not?
- Can you think of anything you have that other people need? Are you willing to share it?

- “Unit 21, Session 3” discussion starter video

LEADER • People who do not know Jesus are thirsty—not for water or lemonade but for true life. Sinners *need* Jesus. Some people don't even know that they need Him. But we know the good news. God offers living water—the Holy Spirit—through Jesus.

God calls us to share the gospel with others. Jesus satisfies our greatest need, to be rescued from sin.

Whom will you tell about Him?

• “God Is Here” song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • The Bible says that the only way to get to God is by trusting in Jesus. We can’t do anything to earn salvation; it is a free gift from God. That makes me want to sing!

Sing together “God Is Here.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • God, thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins to give us what we need the most—salvation from sin and a relationship with You.

We admit that we sometimes look to other things or people to make us feel loved and important. Forgive us, Lord, and draw us closer to You. You created us and You love us. We want to know You more. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, 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. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus 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! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: 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.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Small Group LEADER

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "I Am the Way" song
- coin

Instruct kids to form a circle. They should stand with hands folded together, palm to palm. Play the key passage song and start passing a coin around the circle.

Stop the music at random. Challenge the kid with the coin to recite John 14:6. Play several rounds.

SAY • In our Bible story today, *who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.*

What does our key passage tell us about who Jesus is? (*He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way to the Father.*) Jesus offers us something no one else can give—forgiveness from sin and eternal life. No one else is like Jesus.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- buckets, 3
- table tennis balls, 2

Briefly retell or review the Bible story in your own words or use the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Form two teams. Position three buckets in a single-file line about 6 feet from the kids. Give each team a table tennis ball. Allow each kid a turn to toss a ball toward the buckets. If the ball lands in the closest bucket, award 100 points. If it lands in the second bucket, award 200 points. If

it lands in the farthest bucket, award 300 points.

Then ask the teams the following review questions. For each correct answer, award a team another chance to toss the ball and earn more points.

1. What section of the Bible tells about Jesus' ministry on earth? (*the Gospels*)
2. Where did Jesus stop during His journey to Galilee? (*at a well in Samaria, John 4:3-6*)
3. Whom did Jesus meet at the well? (*a Samaritan woman, John 4:7*)
4. What did Jesus say to the woman? (*"Give Me a drink," John 4:7*)
5. Why was the woman surprised that Jesus was talking to her? (*Jesus was a Jew, and she was a Samaritan; John 4:9*)
6. What kind of water did Jesus say He could give the woman? (*living water, John 4:10*)
7. Whom did Jesus tell the woman to bring to the well? (*her husband, John 4:16*)
8. Who did the woman know was coming? (*the Messiah, John 4:25*)
9. ***Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.***
10. What did the Samaritans say they knew about Jesus? (*He really is the Savior of the world, John 4:42*)

SAY • Great job, everyone. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.** People had waited so long for God to send the Messiah! The woman went back to her town and told the people what happened. They spent time with Jesus and believed for themselves that He is the Savior of the world.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

**LOW PREP**

- index cards
- large pieces of paper
- markers

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Picture words

Write the following words on separate index cards: *bucket, well, water, drink, woman, walk, Jesus*. Choose a volunteer to be the artist. Give the artist a card with a word to draw. Kids should try to guess what the artist is drawing.

The artist may not speak or write any letters or words on the paper. When a kid guesses the drawing, prompt kids to describe how the drawing relates to the Bible story. Then choose a new artist. Play several rounds.

- *well*—Jesus stopped at a well in Samaria.
- *woman*—A Samaritan woman came to the well.
- *drink*—Jesus asked the woman for a drink.
- *bucket*—The woman pointed out that Jesus didn't have a bucket to get water from the well.
- *water*—Jesus offered the woman living water.
- *Jesus*—**Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.**

SAY • Even though Jesus was a Jew, He was kind to the Samaritan woman. Jesus offers salvation to anyone who will trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

OPTION 2: Pray for people groups

Before the session, research the people served in an area by a missionary your church supports, or collect information online about an unreached people group. (A people group is unreached when less than 2 percent of its population is evangelical Christian.)

Share facts about the people. Encourage kids to write the name of the people group on index cards to keep in their Bibles as a reminder to pray. Consider highlighting the Songhai people in Western Africa.

- index cards
- markers

Tip: Find more about the Songhai people at www.gowestafrica.org/peoplegroups/songhai/

- The Songhai people live along the Niger River at the edge of the Sahara Desert in Western Africa.
- Less than 200 of the 3.5 million Songhai people are Christians.

SAY • Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.

Jesus offered the Samaritan woman living water.

Jesus wasn't talking about water the woman could physically drink; He was talking about the Holy Spirit who would satisfy her spiritual thirst. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Him.

Let's pray that the Songhai people would hear and believe the good news about Jesus. We can pray for the safety of missionaries and new believers in Africa.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Prompt kids to write a few sentences about who they believe Jesus is.

Remind them that the woman gave a testimony to the people in her town; she told them what she had seen and heard. Encourage kids write about why they believe what they do about Jesus.

SAY • Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is the Messiah.

The woman told others about Jesus. Think of someone who doesn't know about Jesus, and tell him or her this week that the Messiah has come!

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Well Words" on the activity page. Kids should list on the stones around the well words they can spell from the letters provided. (Possible words: *shame, seams, ashes, mass, seas, miss, mess, his, him, ham*, and so forth.)

Challenge them to form a seven-letter word to complete the main point of today's Bible story. (*Messiah*)

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Well Words" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.