

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL (JOHN 4)

LIVING WATER OBJECT LESSON

REVIEW:

Main Objective: The story of Jesus and the woman at the well reminds us of a couple of essential insights. For one thing, we see Christ’s love for all, and desire that all would know Him and be saved. This reminds us that we want to share the message of Jesus with everyone. Another key element is the blessed hope that Jesus is the “living water” that will truly satisfy. This might be an abstract idea, but kids can understand the idea of being thirsty. In our lives, we can be spiritually “thirsty”, as well, and need to know that we need Jesus every day to survive.

Law/Gospel Theme: The law would have condemned this Samaritan woman, and declared that her sin would keep her outcast. It was quite surprising and unconventional that Jesus would speak to her. But the Gospel message reminds us that Jesus came to seek and save the lost—ALL of them! Because of that, we have hope and we know that Jesus loves each and every one of us.

Optional Materials: Water bottles / thermoses, in various shapes and sizes

LESSON:

Introduction / Object Lesson

Hello, children of God! How are you? You know, I am feeling pretty thirsty. What do you like to drink when you get thirsty? (*Allow a few responses*).

Well, there are a lot of things I like to drink, but when I’m really thirsty, my favorite thing is good old water! In fact, I think I’ll have some water right now. But...I wonder what I should use to drink it. See, I have developed quite a collection of water bottles here... (*Pull out several different water bottles, one at a time, describing as you go*).

See, there’s this one with a straw...and this one that’s a little short. This is a nice one because it fits my cup holder well. Oh, and I like this one because I can carry it by this little handle! I have a lot of choices. And as you can see, there are several different colors and sizes and shapes. But what do all of these water bottles have in common? What do they do the same?

That’s right, they all hold water! All of them will help me out if I am thirsty, as long as they’re full of good clean water on the inside.

The Story of the Woman at the Well

Did you know that we are kind of the same way as people? We are all pretty different on the outside...but the more important thing is what we are filled with on the inside. This is what we can discover in our Gospel lesson today. Jesus was having an interesting conversation with a woman one day at a well. Now, there were a couple of reasons why it was slightly strange that Jesus would talk with her. For one thing, she was a woman, and in those days women were not

really seen as equal with men. Another reason Jesus would not be likely to normally talk with her was that she was a Samaritan.

That means she was sort of from the bad side of town...the Jews and Samaritans did not get along so well. Not only that, but this woman had done some not so great things in her life...she might have felt ashamed about that, and was maybe even suspicious about why Jesus would be willing to talk with her. But Jesus knew this woman needed Him. He knew that her heart could be healed and her life changed. He knew that it didn't matter what she was on the outside; He could fill her inside.

Jesus told the woman that He had water that would keep her from ever being thirsty again. She was a little confused, and asked where she could get such amazing water. Jesus told her that He was the answer to what she needed. He shared with her some information about her life that only she knew, revealing that He knew who she was... she realized that this man was someone amazing. She was so excited that she ran and told her friends who she had found, and when they heard about it, they believed as well!

Take Away

So what can we learn from this? Well, we know that God wants everyone to hear the good news of Jesus, and we can share that with others, whoever they might be. When Jesus fills our insides, it allows us to serve and share with other people. We also know that Jesus will satisfy our needs. We know we need to drink water every day in order to survive. Well, we also need the love of Jesus in our lives every day. We connect with that by reading God's word, living in His presence, and of course by praying! Why don't we say a prayer about that now, and ask God to help us share His love, too? Let's pray...

Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for seeing us, loving us, and giving us Your living water. Help us share Your love with everyone we meet. Amen."

Other ways of sharing the story of the Woman at the Well

Read: John 4:1-30

Watch: Jesus and the Woman at the Well | Stories of the Bible
<https://youtu.be/Z8HBbOIXLD8>

Memory verse:

"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." - John 4:10

The Woman at the Well

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." John 4:10 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 4:5-26 (NIV)

1. Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

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

PROPHET
LIVING
THIRSTY

WELL
WATER
LIFE

GIFT
ETERNAL
SPRING

DRINK
JESUS
SAMARITAN

MESSIAH
WOMAN
HUSBAND

Help the Samaritan woman find the way to the well.



