

# Life of Christ

## The Woman at the Well Meets Jesus

John 4:1-30, 39-42

### Younger Verse

We know that this man really is the Savior of the world.

John 4:42 (NIV)

### Older Verse

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.

John 4:42 (NIV)

### Bible Story

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.

Is there someone at school or in your neighborhood that you don't like? Maybe they speak differently or dress differently. Maybe you don't like them because other people don't like them. How should we act around people who are not like us? Our Bible story tells us what Jesus did in a situation like that, and since Jesus is the greatest example of all, we should do what He did. Let's see what happened!

In John 4, we read that Jesus left Judea. Jesus left because the church leaders, the Pharisees, did not like that He was baptizing more people than John, although Jesus was not actually baptizing, His disciples were. So, when Jesus realized this, He left and headed back toward the area of Galilee. When had He been in Galilee before? At the wedding in Cana, when He changed the water into wine. The Bible tells us that Jesus had to pass through Samaria, the region between Judea and Galilee. This was not the only way to get to Galilee. In fact, many of those church leaders, the ones who were mad at Jesus, found ways to go around Samaria. They did not like the people who lived there. Jesus could have been like them, but he chose to go through Samaria. He "needed to" or "had to" because it was what His Father, God, wanted Him to do. And Jesus knew this because He talked to His Father a lot by praying. God knew that there was a woman in Samaria who was ready to know about Him. That is why Jesus "had to" go.

When Jesus and His disciples arrived in Samaria, they stopped in a town called Sychar (S-eye-car). It was about noon and Jesus sat down by a well while His disciples went into the village to find something for them to eat. While Jesus' disciples were away, a woman came to the well to get water for her home. This was very odd, though, because most women went to the well early in the morning. This woman chose the noon hour because she knew none of the others would be there. Jesus was tired from His trip and asked her for a drink of water. The woman was surprised! She knew that people like Jesus, Jews, did not like people like her. She was only part Jew and for many Jewish people that was almost worse than not being a Jew at all. But the

According to Strong's Concordance, the Greek word here for "had to" signifies "necessity brought on by circumstances; a moral obligation . . . which arises from divine appointment."

### Lesson Goals

To understand "living water" as a new spiritual life.

To understand the need for sharing our faith with others, even the "unlovables."

woman was also surprised because Jesus was a man, and men did not normally talk to women in public.

Because Jesus knew that the woman understood how important water is to live, He told her that if she had known who He was, she really should have asked Him for water, living water so that she would never thirst again! Does that sound a little confusing? It sounds like Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus about being born again, doesn't it? Well, it is! Jesus is having the same conversation with the woman that He had with Nicodemus. He is talking about a new life! What is living water? Well, Jesus explained that everyone who drinks water gets thirsty again, but "living water" means a new life, a spiritual life, that fills you up inside and satisfies you like the old life never could. After Jesus explained this, He asked the woman at the well to bring her husband, but He knew that she had already been married five times, and this time, she was living with her boyfriend. The woman at the well was honest with Jesus about her life, then she left her water pot at the well and ran to town. She told the men there in town that she had met a man who told her everything she had ever done. She told them that she had found the One from God they had been waiting for! And the people believed her. They believed about Jesus because of what the woman said. But when Jesus stayed with them for a couple of days, they believed His words, not just what the woman said. Many people in the town of Sychar believed in Jesus because He "had to" go through Samaria and because He talked with someone others wouldn't speak to.

It was more important to Jesus that this woman start a new life by believing in Him than that He not talk to her because she was only part Jew, a woman, or because she was living with her boyfriend. Jesus knows what the Bible says: He is God. But for Jesus it was more important to share who He was and how to have life in Him than to walk past someone who wasn't like Him, missing the opportunity to offer new life. The Samaritan woman needed a new way to live. She had made many mistakes. Maybe you have made mistakes, too. Do you need a new way to live? Follow the Samaritan woman's example, as well as the people of her town, and follow Jesus today. And if you already have this new, spiritual life in Jesus, there are people around you, maybe even people you don't like, that also need to know about Jesus. Be like Jesus and talk to them. Tell them that He can help them live a new life of obedience to Him.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Provide each of your students with a half-sheet of cardstock. Have them copy today's verse from the board, reviewing the entire verse as many times as possible. Allow students time to decorate their Memory Verse Cards. Send these cards home with each student, encouraging them to place them in a prominent place at home and to practice the verse several times a day.

**Prayer Time**

Pray, thanking God that He gives everyone a chance to know Him, not just the popular people everyone likes.

**Clean Up and Snack Time**

Make edible "wells" with graham crackers (or marshmallows) and icing.

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 11  
The Harvest  
John 4:27, 31-38

# Preschool Lesson

## I Can Be A Friend To Someone No one Likes!

Sing "I Can Be a Friend to You" to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down."

I can be a friend to you, friend to you, friend to you.  
I can be a friend to you, just like Jesus.

Can you be a friend to someone today?

Even if that "someone" is someone no one likes?

From our story today in God's Word, the Bible, we read that Jesus met a woman at a well. A well is a deep hole in the ground that you can get water from. The woman came to the well to fill her waterpot with water to take back to her house.

The woman at the well was someone that no one liked. She had done some things that were not very nice. Even though no one liked her, Jesus stopped to talk to her! Jesus knew that she needed to know about God's love and He wanted to tell her. She believed Jesus and ran to tell everyone that Jesus came from God and that He was in their town! She ran to tell even those people who did not like her. The people believed what she said and ran to Jesus! And they, too, believed in Jesus.

Jesus was a friend to someone that no one liked. You can be like Jesus! Do you know someone that no one likes? Be their friend today!

End by singing "I Can Be a Friend to You," again.

Pray: "God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for showing me how I can be a friend to someone that no one likes."

# Activities

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- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Provide an outline map of Bible Lands that includes the regions of Judea, Samaria and Galilee. Discuss Jesus' journey while examining the map.
- Sing "I've Got a River of Life."
- Re-enact today's story. Bring robes, a bucket and a pitcher to class. Prepare a "well," made from a large cardboard box, before class time. Allow your students to take turns acting out the story, using all "extras" as the town people.
- Run a water relay. Divide your students into two equal groups. Provide the first student in each group with a small drinking cup. Position a bucket of water per group at the start line and an empty bucket at the finish line. The group that transfers the most water from the first bucket to the second, after giving each group member a chance, is the winner.
- Make a well. Provide each student with small drinking cups. Provide them with markers, construction paper and scissors. Allow them to be creative and decorate their cup to look like a well.
- If your classroom is equipped with small cardboard building blocks, allow your students to construct a well. This well could also be used to re-enact the story.