



Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman

John 4:5-42

Third- and fourth-graders know who’s “in” and who’s “out” in their social circles. Sometimes they can be quite cruel to the kids who are on the outside of the “cool” group. Use this lesson to help them develop a heart of compassion for everyone, including the kids who experience compassion the least.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus loves everyone.

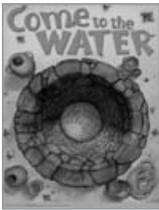
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Water Hunt <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Go on a scavenger hunt to find sources of water.	index cards, paper, pens	Think of several clues for kids to follow to find various sources of water in your church; then write the clues on index cards. Here are some ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can get a cool drink of water from me. (water fountain) • You wash your hands here. (a sink) • Water shoots up and comes back down here. (a decorative fountain)
2 Bible Exploration	A Brick in the Well <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out the account of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline, 1 copy per child of “A Brick in the Well—Part 1” and “A Brick in the Well—Part 2” scripts	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.  

Key Verse
“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will gain a deeper understanding of the love and forgiveness of God offered to everyone.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Come to the Water <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Give the things they've done wrong to Jesus at a well and receive living water, and play a game to know the difference between living water and plain water.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth, markers, 4 water buckets (2 filled with water), 2 cups, several towels Teacher Pack: "Come to the Water" poster</p> 	<p>Make a small hole in the bottom of 1 of the cups.</p>
	<p>He Who Has the Son <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and drink some cool water.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, pitcher of ice water, 1 small paper cup per child, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to showing the love of Jesus to someone this week.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth, markers</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Water Hunt Supplies

index cards
paper
pens

Water Hunt Easy Prep

Think of several clues for kids to follow to find various sources of water in your church; then write the clues on index cards. Here are some ideas:

- You can get a cool drink of water from me. (water fountain)
- You wash your hands here. (a sink)
- Water shoots up and comes back down here. (a decorative fountain)

1 GETTING STARTED

Water Hunt

Tip Be sure groups don't disturb other groups in church while doing this activity. If possible, have an adult leader go with each group. You could have kids make a list or draw pictures of the sources of water rather than going outside of your meeting room.

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **We're going on a scavenger hunt today! I'll give you a list of clues, and you'll find the answers to those clues. The answers all have something in common. When you figure out what that is, write your answer and where you'd find it.**

Have kids form groups of four, and give them pens and their clues. Send them out to find the sources of water.

When kids have returned with their lists, have them sit down. Ask willing kids from each group to share what they discovered.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to search for the water with just those clues?**
- **What helped you find the right water sources?**
- **What are some ways water is useful?**

Say: **Today we're going to learn about a woman who might not have known it, but was looking for answers. And we'll see what kind of water Jesus offered her and what that means for us. We'll learn that ► JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.**





2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

A Brick in the Well



Tip If you have a small group, have each willing child read more than one brick part.

What You'll Do

Say: **Today we're going to act out the Bible passage about a woman who met Jesus at a well. The passage is found in the Gospel of John.**

Have kids open their Bibles to John 4:5-42, and show them the "Jesus Talks With the Woman at the Well" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **The woman at the well was a Samaritan. The Jews didn't talk to Samaritans. But Jesus, who was a Jew, asked her for a drink of water.**

Give everyone a copy of the "A Brick in the Well—Part 1" script. Ask for two willing children to read the parts of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The rest of the group will act as bricks and will form the well. Have those kids take the parts of the 12 "bricks"; assign the bricks numbers 1 through 12. If you have fewer than 14 kids, assign multiple brick roles to each child. If you have more than 14 kids, double up on some of the brick roles so they read their lines together.

Have the kids who are bricks stand in a tight circle, facing inward. Kids playing Jesus and the Samaritan woman will stand outside the well.

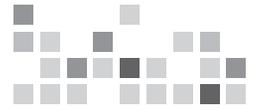
Have kids read from the script. To begin, have the child reading the part of Jesus gently lean on the child playing the part of Brick 1.

When kids have finished reading, applaud their efforts, and have them sit down.

Distribute pens, and have kids form groups of four and turn to the "Jesus Gives Living Water!" activity in their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **Think about some typical reactions people have to people like the woman at the well, people who have a poor reputation. In your group, talk about what some of those reactions are, and then write them in the talk bubbles on your Bible Truth Sleuth page.**

When kids have finished, ask for willing kids to share what they've written with the whole group.



A Brick in the Well Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Truth Sleuth pens
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline
- 1 copy per child of "A Brick in the Well—Part 1" and "A Brick in the Well—Part 2" scripts

A Brick in the Well Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Say: **Now let's find out what happened next in our passage about the Samaritan woman at the well. When the disciples returned from the town with food for Jesus, several things happened that showed they weren't all that different from the Samaritan woman in understanding who Jesus was and where his strength came from. Let's go back the well and let our bricks bring us up to speed.**

Give everyone a copy of the "A Brick in the Well—Part 2" script. Ask for four willing children to read the parts of Jesus, the Samaritan woman, Disciple 1 and Disciple 2. The rest of the group will act as bricks and will form the well. Assign the bricks numbers 1 through 9. If you have fewer than 13 kids, assign multiple brick roles to each child. If you have more than 13 kids, double up on some of the brick roles so they read their lines together.

Have the kids who are bricks stand in a tight circle, facing inward. Kids playing Jesus, the Samaritan woman, and the Disciples will stand outside the well.

Then have kids read from the script. To begin, have the child reading the part of Jesus gently lean on the child playing the part of Brick 1.

When kids have finished reading, applaud their efforts, and have them sit down.

Say: **The bricks in the well have sure seen a lot of activity today, and apparently there's more to come, based on what the bricks told us at the end of our drama. Find a partner, and read John 4:39-42 to find out what the Samaritans from the town wanted with Jesus.**

Give pairs a few minutes to read John 4:39-42, and ask for willing kids to share how they saw lives changed in these verses.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Jesus show love to all the people in today's Bible passage?
- What are ways you can show Jesus' love to others, based on how Jesus showed love here?
- What are some barriers that get in the way of loving others?

Say: **Jesus offered living water to the woman at the well. He didn't withhold his compassion for her just because of some poor choices she'd made in her life. ► JESUS LOVES EVERYONE, no exceptions. But he won't force his love on anyone. We have to choose to "drink" of the living water of Jesus' love. And we need to stay open to learning more about Jesus just as the disciples learned about Jesus' living food and the people in the town listened to the Samaritan woman.**

Let's look at what Jesus' living water means to us.



3

WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Come to the Water

What You'll Do

Lay the "Come to the Water" poster on a table.

Say: **The woman at the well was amazed that Jesus knew personal things about her, because she'd never met him before. Think about some of the things you've done that you wouldn't want anyone to know about.**

Pause to give kids time to think.

Say: **Now think about the fact that Jesus knows about all of those things, and he wants to give you his living water because he loves you and wants you to have eternal life.**

Now we'll give to Jesus at this well all of those things we've done and receive his love, his living water, and his eternal life.

Have kids imagine they're placing the things they've thought of in their hands. Then have each child quietly come up to the well and pretend to place them inside. As each person finishes, say: **Jesus loves you**, [name of child]. Once they've finished, have the kids return to their places and sit down.

Say: **Jesus used the image of water to explain something very important to the Samaritan woman—what life in him looks like. Let's do a little competition to see the difference between actual water and the living water that Jesus told the Samaritan woman about.**

Set two buckets of water side by side on the floor. Have an empty bucket next to each full one. Set a cup inside each bucket of water. Form two teams, and have each team line up behind a pair of buckets.

Say: **The goal of this game is simple: See how much water you can get from the full bucket into the empty bucket. Each of your team members will get three scoops to try to fill the bucket with water using the cup provided in your bucket. Please go as fast as you can, but also take care to avoid splashing the water on to the floor. Points will be deducted for water spilled onto the floor.**

On "go!" one child from each team will get three scoops to transfer water to the empty bucket. This will obviously be easier for the team that has the cup without the hole. At the end of each turn, kids will pass the cup to the next person in line. Play for about five minutes.

Have some towels on hand to give to kids who might get wet.



Come to the Water Supplies

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- Bible Truth Sleuth markers
- 4 water buckets (2 filled with water)
- 2 cups
- several towels
- Teacher Pack**
- "Come to the Water" poster

Come to the Water Easy Prep

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Make a small hole in the bottom of 1 of the cups.





He Who Has the Son Supplies

Bibles
CD player
pitcher of ice water
1 small paper cup per
child
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "I Am the Way"
(John 14:6) (track 11)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to give all of your wrong things to Jesus in our poster activity?
- Why might people choose to hold on to the wrong things they've done instead of giving them to Jesus?
- How is that like scooping water with a hole in the cup?
- In what ways is the life Jesus offers like using the cup without the hole?

Say: **Water is a key to our survival, but scooping it with a defective cup was less than satisfying. Jesus tells us that his living water satisfies 100 percent of the time—like the cup that could scoop 100 percent of the water. Because ► JESUS LOVES EVERYONE, he's happy to exchange your wrong things for his living water! He wants you to have eternal life—all you have to do is believe in Jesus, and you can have it, too!**

He Who Has the Son

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's sing a song about how it's possible that ► JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "I Am the Way" (John 14:6) (track 11 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.

 **I am the way**, (raise hands high on "I"; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path)

I am the way, (repeat motions)

I am the way (repeat motions)

And the truth (place pointer fingers on mouth; then motion out)

And the life. (place palms facing self; then move hands from low to high)

I am the way (raise hands high; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path)

And the truth (place pointer fingers on mouth; then motion out)

And the life. (place palms facing self; then move hands from low to high)

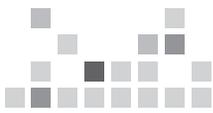
No one comes to the Father (shake head and pointer finger "no")

Except through me. (raise both hands high)

I am the way to the Father; (raise hands high on "I"; place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path; then raise hands high again)

I am the way to the throne of God. (raise hands high on "I"; place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path; then raise hands high again)

I am the way (raise hands high on "I"; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path)



And the truth (*place pointer fingers on mouth; then motion out*)
And the life. (*place palms facing self; then move hands from low to high*)

I am the way (*raise hands high on "I"; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path*)

(The only way) (*freestyle or twist to the beat*)

I am the way (*raise hands high on "I"; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path*)

(Not another way), (*freestyle or twist to the beat*)

I am the way (*raise hands high on "I"; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path*)

(That's the way) (*freestyle or twist to the beat*)

And the truth (*place pointer fingers on mouth; then motion out*)

And the life. (*place palms facing self; then move hands from low to high*)

I am the way (*raise hands high; then place palms in front of you—palms facing each other—like a path*)

And the truth (*place pointer fingers on mouth; then motion out*)

And the life. (*place palms facing self; then move hands from low to high*)

No one comes to the Father (*shake head and pointer finger "no"*)

Except through me. (*raise both hands high*)

No one comes by another way, (*shake head and pointer finger "no"*)

So come through me, (*motion "come here"*)

And we'll celebrate. (*wave hands side to side overhead*)

I am the way and the truth and the life. (*repeat motions*)

I am the way (the only way),
I am the way (not another way),
I am the way (that's the way)
And the truth
And the life.

I am the way.
I am the truth.
I am the life.

"I Am the Way" (John 14:6) by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

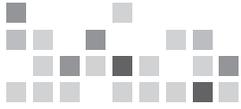
Give an empty paper cup to each child.

Say: **Our Key Verse in the Bible tells us about the life we can find in Jesus. After we say our Key Verse, 1 John 5:12, we'll have a special prayer time in which you'll receive water that represents you being filled with the love of Jesus' living water.**

Have kids open their Bibles to 1 John 5:12 and read the verse aloud together: "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Say: **Bring your cup to me, and I will pour water into it to represent the living water of Jesus. As I pour the water, we'll say together, "He who has the Son has life!"**





Have each child come to you to have his or her cup filled with water. Invite the kids to drink the ice water as they receive it, and say, “**Jesus loves you**” as they drink. If they choose not to drink the water, say “Jesus loves you” all the same. When the last child has received water, gather everyone’s attention.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do our Key Verse and the song we sang tell us about Jesus’ love?
- How is Jesus’ love like a refreshing drink of water?
- What is so crucial about believing in Jesus’ love for us?

Say: **When Jesus said he’s the way, he didn’t say it to turn away anyone. He was simply stating the truth: Without belief in Jesus, we can’t experience his love. But if we have him in our heart, mind, and soul, we’ll experience the same living-water love as the Samaritan woman.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
markers

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how we can share the love of Jesus this week.**

Here’s our Daily Challenge for the week: On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, draw someone you know who you’re going to share Jesus’ love with this week. Draw that person sitting on the well next to Jesus on the front side of your Bible Truth Sleuth page. Think about how you’re going to show the love of Jesus to that person this week.

Make sure you also commit to showing someone the love of Jesus this week and tell the kids what you plan to do. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: ► **JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.** The Samaritan woman unexpectedly experienced that love when she met Jesus at the well. Let’s experience that love, too, and share it with others by following through on our Daily Challenge.



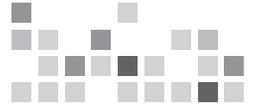


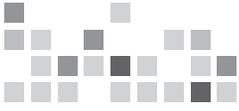
Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about their commitment to share Jesus' love and what they learned about Jesus' love. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for the living water of Jesus' love and for daily refreshment of that living water in our lives.





Lyrics ■■■■

I Am the Way (John 14:6)

I am the way,
I am the way,
I am the way
And the truth
And the life.

I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

I am the way to the Father;
I am the way to the throne of God.
I am the way and the truth and the life.

I am the way
(the only way),
I am the way
(not another way),
I am the way
(that's the way)
And the truth
And the life.

I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
No one comes by another way,
So come through me, and we'll celebrate.
I am the way and the truth and the life.

I am the way (the only way),
I am the way (not another way),
I am the way (that's the way)
And the truth
And the life.

I am the way.
I am the truth.
I am the life.

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