



LESSON 2

JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sent Jesus to Save Us

SCRIPTURE: John 4

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman at a well and reveals that He is the Messiah, the promised One sent to save all people.

WORD OF WONDER: God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son. —from John 3:16

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Who are some people who help or save others?
- Curiosity Questions
- God's Big Story
- Word of Wonder: From John 3:16
- Discussion Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Water Cups and Thankful Steps
- Blessing Your Kids
- Closing Game: Finding Jesus "I Spy"



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WORD OF WONDER: From John 3:16

Have you ever been really, *really* thirsty? I recently started running again, and after a long run in the heat of summer, I'm beyond parched. Like I cannot function until I take a good, long gulp of life-giving sustenance. I can picture the woman in this week's story coming to the well because she needed water but receiving something so much better.

Read John 4:1–26. Now imagine Jesus approaching you and me and saying that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst again. Our minds would be blown away at that response, but Jesus was simply reminding the woman (and us!) that when she's with Him, all her needs are met. That realization is still true today because we get to trust Him. God sent Jesus to save us, and sometimes we don't even realize we need to be saved.

So, as you prepare for this lesson, pause to think about what you need. Reflect on the truth that with Jesus all our needs are met, with Jesus we are saved, with Jesus we are loved. With Jesus, our deepest thirst is satisfied.

—**Andrae Jones**

Nextgen Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 **FOR LEADERS**
JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

When Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC, foreigners were sent to live there. The Jewish people who were left behind intermarried with the foreigners and became known as Samaritans. The Jewish people considered Samaritans to be defiled religiously and ethnically.

WHAT?

It would have been very uncommon for a Jewish man to interact with a Samaritan woman. And with her background, the woman in this account may have been an outcast among her own people. But this Samaritan woman was about to get some very good news from Jesus!

WHERE?

The conversation takes place at Jacob's well, which is not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture. The Samaritans worshiped God at Mount Gerizim, which is where the Israelites announced the blessings they would receive for following God's law in the book of Deuteronomy.

WHEN?

Just a chapter earlier in the book of John, Jesus told Nicodemus how to receive eternal life. Nicodemus was righteous in the Jews' eyes, and the Samaritan woman was a defiled sinner. But both needed to hear the good news about Jesus!

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

Jesus revealed to the Samaritan woman that He is the long-awaited Messiah, and many Samaritans came to believe in Him because of her testimony. Jesus was beginning to make it clear that God's promise of salvation and restoration is available to all people everywhere.

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

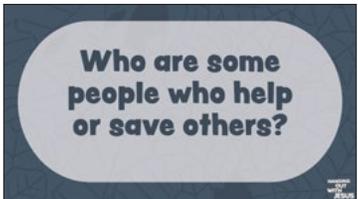
As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **Has anyone ever saved your life or the life of someone you know? Share your story!**
- **How do you think people feel after they've been saved from something scary?**



Who are some people who help or save others?

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), tape (prep only), disposable cups (6)

RESOURCES: [Word of Wonder Sheet \(1/SG\)](#)

WORD OF WONDER

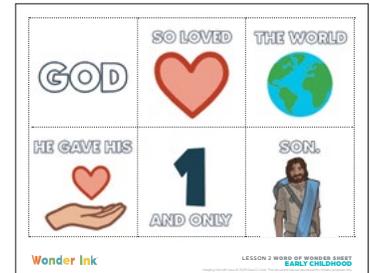
God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son.

—from John 3:16

Ahead of time, print and cut apart the Word of Wonder Sheet and tape each picture to the bottom of a cup.

Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series is from John 3:16. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.



- **GOD**—Point up to God.
- **SO LOVED**—Hands on heart.
- **THE WORLD**.—Hands in a big circle over your head.
- **HE GAVE HIS ONE**—Point up with one finger.
- **AND ONLY SON.**—Hold your hands out on either side (like a cross).
- **FROM JOHN 3:16**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Today we're learning that God sent His son, Jesus, to the world to save all of us. This verse tells us why God sent Jesus to save us. Let's take a look at our Word of Wonder.

Listen to the Word of Wonder: John 3:16. Read the verse out loud. Set out the cups with the pictures taped to them. If you have a lot of kids, you can make several sets of cups (or one set for each small group).

Our Word of Wonder tells us about how God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us! Let's work on memorizing this great news!

Direct kids to pick out a cup each. If your group is very small, kids may need to pick out more than one cup. **Let's turn our cups upside down so the pictures are showing. These pictures go with our Word of Wonder. We're going to work together to put the cups in order of the verse.**

The kids may need help arranging the cups in the correct order. Help them identify the pictures on the bottom of the cups, repeat the verse, and let the kids help put them in order. When the kids have finished, lead the kids in saying the verse aloud together.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Who sent Jesus to earth?** (God)
- **Why do you think God sent Jesus to earth?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: to save us, because He loves us, to forgive us, so we can have a relationship with God.)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the book of John in the Bible. It's in the New Testament.

[Read the God's Big Story Script below from John 4:4–14, 21–26.](#)

Jesus was traveling and stopped at a well to rest. Pretend to wipe your forehead like you are tired. A woman came to get water, and Jesus asked her for a drink. Pretend to scoop water with a bucket.

Jesus told her that He has living water. Hold your hands like you are holding something special. He explained that regular water helps for a little while, but living water from Him fills our hearts forever. Put your hand on your heart.

The woman was confused and curious. Tilt your head like you are wondering. Jesus told her that people do not need a special place to worship God, because God wants people to worship Him with their hearts. Point to your heart.

Then Jesus told her something amazing. He said that He is the Savior God promised. Open your eyes wide in surprise. The woman realized Jesus was the One she had been waiting for. Smile big.

Jesus showed her that He knows her and loves her. Give yourself a gentle hug. Jesus offers living water to everyone who believes in Him. Stretch your arms out wide to show everyone is invited.

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), disposable cups (at least 12), blue construction paper (1 sheet)

Ahead of time, cut out eight small “water droplet” shapes from the blue construction paper. They should be small enough to fit underneath the disposable cups. Set out disposable cups upside down on the floor, with eight cups having a water droplet paper underneath. The rest of the cups won’t have anything under them.

Gather the kids to sit in a circle around the cups. **In our story today, God sent Jesus to talk to the woman at the well about living water. God wants us to know about this living water too! We’re going to take turns sharing our answers to questions by picking up cups. Some cups have a water droplet underneath.** Show the kids an example of what the water droplets look like. **If your cup doesn’t have a droplet underneath, we’ll move to the next person. You’ll each get to have a turn picking up a cup. If your cup has a water droplet, I’ll ask you a question. Are you ready? Let’s do this!**

Choose a volunteer to pick out a cup. If there is a water droplet, ask a question from the list. If not, move to the next kid in the circle. Go around the circle until all kids have had a chance to pick a cup or until all questions are answered. You can allow multiple kids to answer the open-ended questions to give more chances for participation for students who don’t get a water droplet cup.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus when He met the woman in our story?** (*traveling; Samaria*)
- **Why do you think the woman was at the well?**
- **What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman to get Him?** (*a drink of water*)
- **What did Jesus tell the woman?** (*He gives living water that lasts forever; He is the Promised Savior and Messiah.*)
- **What did the Samaritan woman do after she met Jesus?** (*She told everyone about Him.*)
- **What would you say to Jesus if you met Him when you were out at a playground?**
- **What can you tell others about Jesus?**
- **How does Jesus save us?**

In today’s story, Jesus stopped and talked to a woman who discovered He is the Messiah, or Savior, for whom everyone had been waiting. All people need a Savior because we all mess up and do wrong things. Because of those wrong things, we can’t be close with God and be in His family. So, because He loves us, God sent Jesus to save us and forgive us! Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven, and we get to be in God’s family!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for sending Jesus to save us. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Water Cups and Thankful Steps

SUPPLIES: tape, smiley face stickers(1 per kid), coloring utensils, bucket (optional), disposable paper or foam cups (1 per kid), markers, foam stickers (optional)

RESOURCES: [Jesus Picture \(3/SG\)](#), [Cup Label Sheet \(1 label per kid\)](#), songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the Jesus Picture. Tape it to the wall at kid-level. You can also place a bucket by the picture to represent the well and print the Cup Label Sheet and cut (1/label/kid)

Gather kids in a circle. Remind them very simply: Jesus met a woman at a well and told her He gives living water that saves. Ask one quick wonder question: **I wonder how it felt to meet Jesus when He surprised her.** Let one or two kids answer.

In our story today, the woman at the well had heard about, and was waiting for, the Savior, but she didn't know at first that Jesus was the One she had been waiting for. Jesus told her that He is the Savior, and she was amazed. Jesus came to be our Savior too!

Jesus told the woman He has something better than regular water: He is the One who forgives our sins (the wrong things we do) and saves! Jesus came to save us too. Let's make cups to remind us of the story and remind us He saves us!

Give each child a cup, a label, and markers. Help them stick the label on the cup. Encourage them to decorate with markers and foam stickers. While they decorate, prompt gentle wonder cues:

I wonder what it will feel like to meet Jesus.

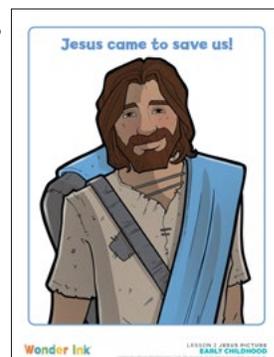
I wonder how Jesus makes our hearts happy.

Play soft worship music while they finish decorating.

You can play music from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) while the kids do this activity.

Give each child a smiley face sticker. Invite them to draw a happy face or a tiny heart for Jesus. If a child needs help, draw with them.

Show children how to skip, hop, or tiptoe joyfully from the craft table to the Jesus picture. Each child carries their sticky face. When they reach the picture, they stick the face around the Jesus picture or drop it into the bucket near the well and loudly and happily call, Thank you Jesus.



Encourage a short burst of music while kids move. After they return, they place their sticky face inside their own decorated cup and sit down.

Close by leading a 20 second thank you prayer: thank God for sending Jesus to save us. Invite the kids to hold their cups and whisper one thing they are thankful for if they want. End with two joyful claps.

Closing Game: Finding Jesus "I Spy"

SUPPLIES: paper (optional), writing utensil (optional)

RESOURCES: [Jesus Picture](#) (from above)

If you haven't already, print the Jesus picture (or simply write "Jesus" on a paper). When the kids aren't looking, hide the Jesus Picture behind or under something in your room.

I spy with my little eye, Jesus under something ... [name the color or description of the object the Jesus Picture is hidden behind or under]. Let the kids guess until they figure out where the picture is hidden. Then have the kids close their eyes (or turn their backs) and play again.

The woman in our story today didn't know she'd meet Jesus at the well!

When she did meet Him, her life was changed! We don't have to look hard for Jesus because He is always here. We can always remember God sent Jesus to save us!



Leader Tip: For young kids who may not know colors well, use other descriptors such as "something ... very big!"