



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 that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. —John 3:16–17

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- PRE-SERVICE:
 - Option 1: Interactive Game: Save Me!
 - Option 2: Seven Seconds
- Welcome Question: Who are some people who help or save others?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Goodbye Yesterday, You Are
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Gratitude
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sent Jesus to Save Us

SCRIPTURE: John 4

WORD OF WONDER: John 3:16–17

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.

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sent Jesus to Save Us

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WORD OF WONDER: John 3:16–17

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

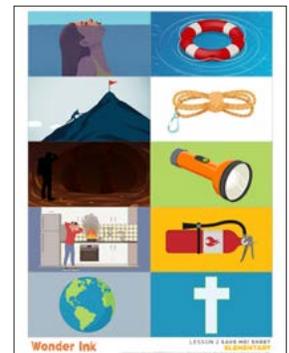
OPTION 1: Interactive Game: Save Me!

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), resealable baggies (1 per 5 kids), cardstock (optional)

RESOURCES: [Save Me! Sheet](#) (1 per 5 kids)**REQUEST if needed

Ahead of time, print copies of the Save Me! Sheet, on cardstock if possible. Cut the cards apart, shuffle each set, and place each set in a resealable baggie. You'll need one set of cards for every five kids.

Display the [Save Me! Slide](#) and gather the kids. Help kids form groups of five and have them spread out at tables or on the floor. Give a prepared baggie of cards to each group. **Let's play a matching game! On your cards are images of problems and images that show solutions to those problems. Start by turning all your cards face down.** Pause for groups to lay their cards face down. **Now each person in your group will take turns flipping two cards over at a time to find a problem and a solution that go together. If the cards you flip don't go together, turn them back over, and the next player in your group will take a turn.** Give kids time to complete the game by finding all five pairs. After the groups have finished, invite kids to name some other times people might need saving.



Collect the cards and gather the kids back together. **Many of us have had times when we needed saving, and all of us need help sometimes.**

Display the Well Wonder Truth Slide. God knew we would all need to be saved from our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from Him! Today’s Wonder Truth is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US.**



Make It Inclusive: Prepare a few extra sets of Save Me! cards to have available for any kids who struggle to work cooperatively in groups. That way they can participate in the activity with their own set of cards!

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Seven Seconds

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), basket or container, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, stopwatch/timer

RESOURCES: *Seven Seconds Slips* (1/LG ****REQUEST if needed**)

Ahead of time, print the Seven Seconds Slips and cut them apart. Fold the slips and place them in a basket or other container.

Display the *Seven Seconds Slide* and gather the kids. Help kids form two teams and encourage each team to come up with a team name. Write the team names on the whiteboard, where you will keep score. **Let’s play a game called Seven Seconds to challenge what we know about saving people! On the slips in this basket (hold up basket of slips) are categories that relate to saving and rescuing others. Your teams will take turns pulling a slip and reading the category. Then I will give you seven seconds to name three things in the category. If your team succeeds, you earn seven points! If you cannot name three things in the category, the other team will have a chance to name three things in seven seconds to earn seven points.** Begin the game by having someone from one of the teams pull a slip and read the category. Set a timer or stopwatch for seven seconds and begin. Record points on the whiteboard and play until all ten slips have been pulled or until your time is up. At the end, add up the points and announce the winning team!

Jobs that save lives
Times in the Bible when God saved His people
Tools used to save people
Items in a first aid kit
Fictional superpowers that could help save people
Safe places to go during a storm
People who help in an emergency
Fictional superheroes who help save people

Wonder Ink LESSON 2 SEVEN SECONDS SLIPS



For your reference, here are the eight categories included on the Seven Seconds Slips: jobs that save lives, times in the Bible when God saved His people, tools used to save people, items in a first aid kit, fictional superpowers that could help save people, safe places to go during a storm, people who help in an emergency, fictional superheroes who help save people.

Leader Tip: Keep kids on their toes and add silly energy to the game by announcing different point values in the final rounds. For example, “The next two categories are worth 7,000 points each!”

Wow! You all know a lot about saving and rescuing people! Many of us have had times when we needed saving, and all of us need help sometimes. **Display the Well Wonder Truth Slide.** God knew we would all need to be saved from our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from Him! Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US.**



Make It Inclusive: Timed activities can make some kids anxious. If needed, remove the seven-second time limit and give teams as much time as they need to name three things in the category.

Welcome Question

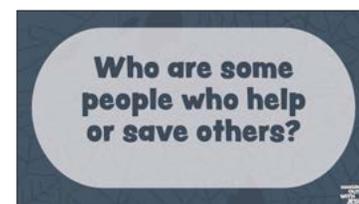
SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

There are so many brave people who dedicate their lives to helping and saving others. Today in God's big story, we'll hear about one person in particular who came to save all people!



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

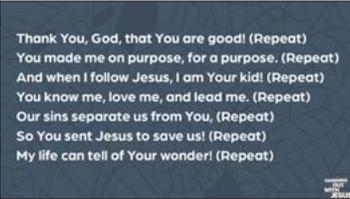
VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the [Well Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)
Our sins separate us from You, (Kids repeat.)
So You sent Jesus to save us! (Kids repeat.)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Repeat)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)
Our sins separate us from You, (Repeat)
So You sent Jesus to save us! (Repeat)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You for being here with us today. We love You! Please show us more of Yourself as we learn from the Bible. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God didn't send Jesus to save just some people. God sent Jesus to save all people from their sins—the wrong things they do. Today we'll hear about an amazing conversation Jesus had with a woman He came to save. Let's praise God now because He loves us!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Goodbye Yesterday, You Are

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Display the [Well Title Slide](#). Explain to kids that today's story, which comes from the Bible, can be found in the book of John, part of the New Testament. Highlight that John is one of four Gospels, which are true accounts of Jesus' time on earth.



Today we are learning about a surprising conversation Jesus had at a well that changed everything. Watch how Jesus talks about living water and reveals who He really is. As you watch, think about what it means for Jesus to be the Savior for everyone who comes to Him.

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

LESSON 2 JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

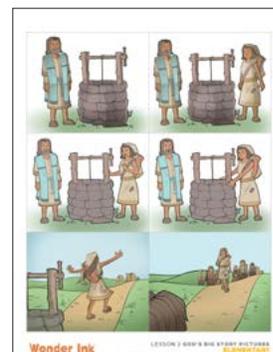
SUPPLIES: small bags (paper or resealable, 1 per kid), scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Pictures](#) (1 set per 2 kids)

Ahead of time, print a set of God's Big Story Pictures for each kid. Cut the pictures apart and put one set in each bag.

Invite the kids to sit on the floor and hand each kid a bag of pictures. Ask kids to get in groups of 2-3 kids and place their bags in front of them and not to look in them yet.

Inside your bags are pictures from today's part of God's big story. You'll use the pictures to help tell the story. So, listen carefully!



Jesus showed people all over Israel what God's kingdom is like, that God is in charge and the broken parts of the world are being fixed. He healed people who were sick and taught about life with God. One time, Jesus decided to travel from Judea, in southern Israel, to Galilee, in northern Israel. To get there, Jesus had to travel through Samaria.

Did you know that most Jews looked down on Samaritans and would go out of their way to avoid Samaria? But Jesus chose to go through Samaria because He had something else in mind. As He traveled, Jesus came to a town called Sychar (SYE-kar). While His disciples went into Sychar to buy food, Jesus decided to rest at a well just outside of town.

Encourage kids to find the picture of Jesus at the well and place it in front of them.

Jesus' resting spot was a very important well in Samaria. It was named after Jacob, Abraham's grandson. Jacob was one of the fathers of the Jewish faith. At around noon, a Samaritan woman arrived at the well.

Encourage kids to find the picture of the woman and Jesus at the well and place it in front of them next to the other picture.

Just then Jesus did something unexpected. He asked the woman for a drink from the well. The Samaritan woman replied to Jesus, "You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9). She knew that according to their culture and traditions, a Jewish man like Jesus shouldn't be asking her for a drink.

Encourage kids to find the picture of the woman being surprised by Jesus' request and place it next to the others.

But Jesus said, "You do not know what God's gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water" (John 4:10).

"You don't have anything to get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself. So did his sons and his livestock. Are you more important than he is?" (John 4:11-12).

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life” (John 4:13–14).

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty”? Allow kids to respond. **The living water Jesus was talking about isn’t physical water we can taste and touch. It is much better and more important than that. But the woman didn’t realize this yet.**

The woman replied to Jesus, “Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty. And I won’t have to keep coming here to get water” (John 4:15).

Encourage kids to find the picture of the woman reaching out toward Jesus and place it next to the others.

“Go. Get your husband and come back,” Jesus told her (John 4:16).

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman said. “You’re right. You have had five husbands, and the man you live with now is not your husband,” Jesus said.

The woman was surprised. “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our people worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that we must worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus responded. “Believe me, a time is coming when you won’t worship God on a mountain, but you, along with the Jews, will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. For this is the kind of worshiper God is looking for.”

“I know the Messiah—the promised Christ and Savior—is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything,” she said.

Then Jesus declared, “I am he” (John 4:26).

The Samaritan woman left her water jar and ran back to town saying to everyone ...

Encourage kids to find the picture of the woman running down the road and place it next to the others.

“Come. See a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Messiah?” (John 4:29). Everyone in town was amazed and many believed in Jesus because of what the woman said.

Encourage kids to find the picture of the woman and crowd of people and place it next to the others.

God sent Jesus to a rejected woman from a rejected group of people to bring them hope that God had not rejected them. Jesus knew everything the Samaritan woman ever did and wanted to give her living water of eternal life because God sent Jesus to save her, the same way God sent Jesus to save us.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Well Wonder Truth Slide.

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.



Jesus revealed to the Samaritan woman that He is Messiah—the Savior—who people had waited a very long time for. Many Samaritans started believing in Jesus because of her testimony. At this point in God's big story, Jesus was starting to make it clear that God's promise of salvation is available to all people everywhere.

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

Wow! What did you like best in today's part of God's big story? Allow kids to answer freely. Share your own answer if kids need help thinking or sharing their thoughts.

If you had been in the town of Sychar (SYE-kar) that day, what would you have thought when the Samaritan woman talked about what Jesus said? Allow kids to respond freely.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: GRATITUDE

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: God sent Jesus to people who were rejected and ignored, and He brought hope to the world. May you always remember that you have hope in Jesus no matter what. God sent Jesus to save you because He loves you!