



## 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

- Welcome Question: Who are some people who help or save others?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Cups of Living Water
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Living Water Bookmarks



### 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.

### Small Group

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Sent Jesus to Save Us

**SCRIPTURE:** John 4

**WORD OF WONDER:** John 3:16–17

### 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!

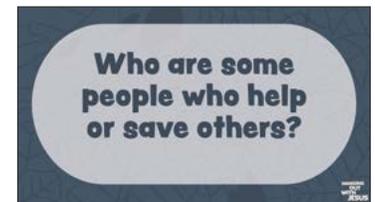
#### As kids arrive ...

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?**



**Leader Tip:** Be particularly sensitive if you know there are kids in your ministry who have lost loved ones or who have been impacted by difficult things like accidents, natural disasters, or serious injuries. Understand that they may have some big feelings they don't always know what to do with. And be available to simply listen, love, and care.

### 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 Activity

### 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 (NirV)

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only), tape (prep only), disposable cups (10 per small group), water, confetti or paper shreds (optional), pitchers (1 per small group, optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Word of Wonder Cup Sheet NirV \(1 per small group\)](#), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print copies of Word of Wonder Cup Sheet NirV for each small group, cut apart the slips, and tape each to the bottom of a disposable cup. Make a set for each small group of 10 kids and set out the cups. Pour fresh water into each cup. Alternatively, fill each cup with confetti or paper shreds and set out an empty pitcher for each small group.

**Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series tells us that God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us! Let's say the verses together.** Open your Bible to John 3:16–17. If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the Elementary Word of Wonder Video. Read John 3:16–17 out loud several times together.

**When Jesus talked with the woman at the well, He compared eternal life with God to living water. Let's drink some water to help us remember that Jesus offers us living water and then let's work on memorizing this great news!** Invite each kid to pick out a cup. If your group has fewer than 10 kids, some kids may need to drink more than one cup of water. **On the bottom of each cup are words from our Word of Wonder. (Wait to look at them!) When I say, "Go," you'll drink the water in your cup and then turn it upside down, so the words are showing. Once all the cups are empty and flipped over, you'll work together to put the cups in order of the verse. Ready, set, go!** If cups are filled with confetti or paper shreds rather than water, set the pitcher on the other side of the room and invite kids to take turns running their cup to the pitcher, dumping the confetti into the pitcher, and returning to the group where they will flip their cups over and put the verse in order. When groups have finished, read the verse aloud together as a large group.



## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

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. Have kids open their Bibles to John 4.

**In this passage, Jesus meets a woman at a well in Samaria, which surprised people in His time. Jesus talks about living water, a picture of the new life He gives through the Holy Spirit. He also teaches that worship is not about a location but about worshiping God in spirit and truth. As you read, think about why Jesus revealed His identity as the Messiah to this woman and what that tells you about who is invited into God's family.**

Read John 4:4–14, 21–26 together.

## Elementary Questions

- **What area did Jesus travel through to get to Galilee?** (Samaria)
- **Where did Jesus choose to rest?** (at a well outside the town of Sychar [SYE-kar], known as Jacob's well)
- **What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for?** (a drink from the well)
- **Why do you think the woman was surprised Jesus was talking to her?** (Most Jews looked down on Samaritans. As a Samaritan woman, she didn't expect Jesus, a Jewish man, to talk to her.)
- **Jesus told the woman that He is the Messiah—the promised Savior. What did Jesus come to save her from? What does He save us from?** (our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God)
- **What do you want to say to God today about sending Jesus to save us?**

Today in God's big story, Jesus stopped and talked with someone who other people looked down on. But Jesus didn't come just to save certain people; He came for everyone because God loves all of us. Wow! Let's say "thank You" to Jesus now in prayer!

**Make It Inclusive:** While open-ended questions prompt kids to think deeply, they can be difficult for some kids to understand and answer. If needed, reword discussion questions into an either/or format or offer 2–3 answer choices. For example, ask, "Did Jesus travel through Jerusalem or Samaria to get to Galilee?"

## Preteen Questions

- **At the time of this story, why did most Jews avoid Samaria? Why do you think Jesus wanted to go through Samaria on His way to Galilee?** (Most Jews looked down on Samaritans and avoided Samaria. There was someone in Samaria—the Samaritan woman—Jesus wanted to talk to.)
- **What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for?** (a drink from the well)
- **Why do you think the woman was surprised Jesus was talking to her?** (Most Jews looked down on Samaritans. As a Samaritan woman, she didn't expect Jesus, a Jewish man, to talk to her.)
- **What do you think Jesus meant when He offered the woman "living water" (John 4:10)?** (The "living water" Jesus offers is eternal life with God!)

- **Jesus told the woman that He is the Messiah—the promised Savior. What did Jesus come to save her from? What does He save us from?** (*our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God*)
- **God sent Jesus to save us from our sin! How does knowing this change how you live?**

**Today in God’s big story, Jesus stopped and talked with someone who others had ignored. Jesus brings hope to rejected people. He brings hope to us on our best days and our worst days because God sent Jesus to save everyone! Let’s take time to thank Him in prayer.**

## Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share any prayer requests or praises they have. Help them identify both in their lives. Then ask for two volunteers to lead the group in prayer. Encourage them to specifically pray for each other’s needs, requests, and praises. Suggest that kids thank God for sending Jesus to save them.

## Head to Large Group!

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

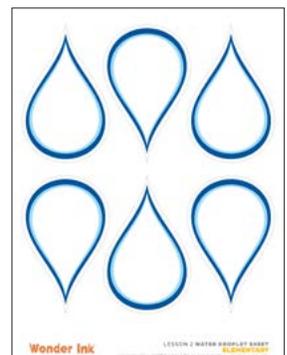
## Elementary Responding in Worship: Cups of Living Water

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), hole punch (prep only), disposable cups (1 per kid), yarn (18" per kid), writing utensils (1 per kid), tape

**RESOURCES:** [Water Droplet Sheet \(1 per 2 elem kids\)](#), [Hanging Out with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Water Droplet Sheet for every two kids. Cut out droplets along the dotted lines and punch a hole in each. (There should be three droplets for each kid.) Cut an 18" strand of yarn per kid.

Give each kid a disposable cup, an 18" strand of yarn, three paper water droplets, and a writing utensil. **Today we heard how Jesus offered something better than water to the woman at the well. What did Jesus offer her?** Allow kids to answer.



**Yes! Jesus had something better than normal water for the woman—He offered living water that produces eternal life. God sent Jesus to save the woman at the well and each one of us from our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God. Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven, but He didn’t stay dead. He rose again, and we can live forever with God! This is good news! And, just as Jesus shared this good news with many people, like the woman at the well, we can share the same good news with others. Let’s create special cups to help us remember that Jesus offers living water—eternal life with God—to everyone!**

Invite kids to think of three people they know who need to hear the good news that God loves them and sent Jesus to save us. Encourage them to write each of their names or draw a picture of them on a water droplet. Be available to help them write. Consider playing music from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Spotify playlist](#) as kids work. If kids struggle to think of three people, that's OK! Give them suggestions such as nations around the world where many people don't know that Jesus loves them.

Once they've written names on or drawn on all three droplets, help kids thread the yarn through the holes. Then give each kid a piece of tape, so she can tape both ends of her yarn to the inside bottom of the cup.

**This week, look for times and ways you can share Jesus' love with each of these people. Be ready to tell them your own story—how has Jesus shown His love to you? And be ready to listen to their questions and stories. God loves them and you so much, and He sent Jesus to save each of us!** Encourage kids to take their cups home as a reminder to continue praying for and talking with the people on their droplets.

**Before we leave today, let's pray for each person whose name you wrote.** Lead kids in a simple prayer. You might give them several seconds to whisper each person's name as together you ask God to open their hearts to the good news that God loves them and sent Jesus to save them. Consider also praying for God to strengthen each kid with wisdom, courage, and excitement to share about Jesus with others!

**Leader Tip:** This lesson may be the first time some of the kids hear about salvation through faith in Jesus! If any kids want to learn more about following Jesus, consider inviting your ministry leader or the child's parents or guardians into the conversation. Check out the Salvation Path resource for more details and ideas!

## Preteen Responding in Worship: Living Water Bookmarks

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, scissors or paper cutter (prep only), writing utensils, hole punch (optional), ribbon (4" per kid, optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Living Water Bookmarks Sheet \(1 per 4 kids\)](#), [Hanging Out with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the Living Water Bookmarks Sheet on cardstock (one copy for every four kids). Use two-sided printing and flip on the long edge. Cut off the footer and cut the bookmarks apart. If you plan to provide ribbons for kids to loop through the top of their bookmarks, hole punch the top of each bookmark. (Thin curly or craft ribbon works well!) Cut the ribbon into lengths of 4", one for each kid.

**Today we heard how Jesus offered something better than water to the woman at the well. What did Jesus offer her?** Allow kids to answer.



**Yes! Jesus had something better than normal water for the woman—He offered living water that produces eternal life. God sent Jesus to save the woman at the well and each one of us from our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God. Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven, but He didn't stay dead. He rose again, and we can live forever with God! This is good news! And, just as Jesus shared this good news with many people, like the woman at the well, we can share the same good news with others.**

- **Who was the first person to share Jesus with you?**
- **Have you ever shared about Jesus with someone? Tell us about it!**

**One way we can share the love of Jesus with others is by telling them our own stories about what Jesus has done for us.**

- **How has Jesus shown His love for you?** *(Possible answers: Jesus is always with me no matter how I'm feeling; He reminds me that He made me in a wonderful way for a good purpose; He helps me feel peace when I'm scared, etc.)*
- **What is something about Jesus you want other people to know and understand?**

Hand out Living Water Bookmarks to each kid and set out writing utensils. If you have ribbon precut into 4" lengths, set it out as well. **Let's spend time praying for people in our lives who might not know the good news of Jesus and His love for them.** Invite kids to think of three people who might not know that Jesus loves them. Encourage them to write each of their names on one of the lines on their bookmark and to pray for them during this time. If kids struggle to think of three people, that's OK! Brainstorm together nations around the world where many people don't know that Jesus loves them. Encourage them to write the name of a nation and to pray for the people living there. (They can choose their own country too!) If you have ribbons, kids can loop and tie one to the top of their bookmark.

Play music from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Spotify playlist](#) as they work on their bookmarks and pray. Encourage kids to take their finished bookmarks home and to continue praying for the people in their lives who don't yet know that Jesus loves them and came to save them.