



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

- Play Stations:
 - Water Bottle Bowling
 - Water Tub
 - Jesus and the Woman at the Well Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Water from the Well
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Always With Me, Your Love for Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

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.

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

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

Leader: You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! Do you remember me? I'm Tac. For anyone who can spell, that's "Cat" spelled backward! I'm always curious about everything. Do you know what it means to be curious? It means to think about things and ask questions. It's good to ask questions! I have something I've been curious about. Do you want to guess what it is?

Tac the Cat: I'm curious about different ways people can get a drink of water.

Leader: Hmmm ... what do you mean by that, Tac?

Tac the Cat: You know—like a water fountain, a stream or river, a faucet or fridge, a bottled water, or a well. What's a well?

Leader: That's interesting! There are lots of different ways to get a drink of water! A well can be a deep hole in the ground that goes clear down to underground water. Most wells these days have a pump attached so people just have to turn it on, and the water comes out.

Tac the Cat: Wait—there's water under the ground?!

Leader: Yes! We're going to hear a story today about a woman from the Bible who was at a well getting water when she met Jesus ... and it changed her life!

Tac the Cat: I'd like to hear about that!

Leader: We'll learn about how Jesus began talking to a woman at the well, and she realized how amazing He is.

Tac the Cat: That sounds so exciting! I'm curious to hear the rest of the story!

Leader: We'll find out more when we hear about God's big story today!

Tac the Cat: That sounds great! Well, I've got more exploring and thinking to do! There's so much to be curious about. And all this talk about water has made me thirsty so I'm going to go get a drink from a stream. I'll see you later!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever had a meeting with someone that made you wonder about something new? Allow the kids to respond. **How do you get water to drink?** Allow the kids to respond. **We'll learn today how a meeting with Jesus at a well changed a woman's life and how Jesus can change our lives because Jesus has come to save us!**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US**. Today we'll discover how God sent Jesus to save us!

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the **Early Childhood Declaration Slide** and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

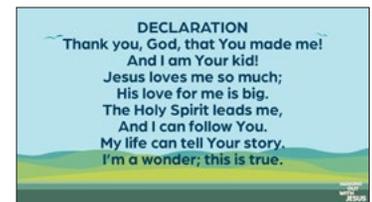
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. 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

Today we'll learn about how God sent Jesus to save us! Let's thank God for Jesus!

Play [worship videos Always With Me, Your Love for Me](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

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.

Watch the [God's Big Story Video](#).

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible

We're going to hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of John in the Bible. When you hear me say the word "water," pretend to drink a cup of water. Demonstrate pretending to drink a cup of water and encourage kids to do the same.

Jesus taught people about God's kingdom. The kingdom means God is in charge and all wrong things in the world are being made right. Jesus did amazing things! He helped people and healed them. One time, Jesus traveled through a place called Samaria.

Jesus was part of a group of people called Jews. Most Jews did not like people from Samaria. They did not talk to them or hang out with them. But Jesus went through Samaria.

While in Samaria, the disciples went into a town to get food. Jesus decided to rest at a well just outside of the town. A well is a very deep hole that fills with water (drink water). People gather at wells to get water (drink water) to drink. Not long after Jesus got to the well, a Samaritan woman came to get water (drink water). 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 a Jewish man like Jesus should not ask her for a drink of water (drink water).

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" (drink water; John 4:10).

"Sir," the woman said, "you don't have anything to get water (drink water) with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water (drink 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 (drink water) will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water (drink water) I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water (drink water) I give them will become a spring of water (drink water) in them. It will flow up into eternal life" (John 4:13–14).

The living water Jesus was talking about isn't like water (drink water) we can drink from a cup. Living water (drink water) is much better and more important than drinking water (drink water). But the woman did not understand yet.

The woman replied to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water (drink water). Then I will never be thirsty. And I won't have to keep coming here to get water (drink water)" (John 4:15). Jesus told her some important details about her life. The woman was surprised that Jesus knew so much about her!

Jesus told her that He is the Messiah—the promised Savior—who everyone was waiting for. The Samaritan woman left her water (drink water) jar and ran back to town saying to everyone, "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. Many people believed in Jesus because of what the woman said.

God sent Jesus to talk to a woman who most people would expect Him not to talk to. But Jesus came for all people. Jesus knew everything the Samaritan woman ever did and wanted to give her eternal life. That means spending forever with God. God sent Jesus to save that woman, the same way God sent Jesus to save us.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

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

Jesus told 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 show that God's salvation is for all people everywhere.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for loving us.

Hold your hands on your heart when I say, “love” or “loving.” Let's pray and talk to God.

God, thank You for loving (hands on heart) us so much that You sent Jesus to save us. Jesus came to forgive us and be our best friend. Help us share His love (hands on heart) with others! We love (hands on heart) You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God sent Jesus to people who were 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!