



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: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. —[John 3:16–17 \(NIV\)](#)

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.

Curiosity

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

Welcome Question

At your start time ...

Welcome the kids to your time together and share a reason why you are glad they are here today! Ask for volunteers to share answers to the question:

Who are some people who help or save others?

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! But first, it's time to be curious!

Curiosity Questions

I'm curious ...

- 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.

Elementary Interactive Game: Save Me!

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. 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!

Preteen Interactive Game: Seven Seconds

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!

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. 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.

Declaring God's Wonder

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.)

Faith

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

—John 3:16–17 (NIV)

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](#). 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.

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.

Identity

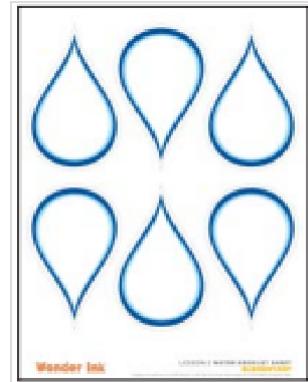
Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Elementary Responding in Worship: Cups of Living Water

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.

Gather the kids together. 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

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.

Gather the kids together. **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.

Blessing Your Kids

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!

GAME 2: RESCUE ME!

In this game, relay teams will race back and forth to “rescue” one person at a time.

Ahead of time, tape a “start” line and “finish” line on the floor, several feet apart.

Divide your group into two teams, and have them line up at the start line. Send one kid from each team to the finish line.

Make It Inclusive: To include kids who with limited mobility, invite them to help you lead! They can be the timekeeper, keep track of how many people were rescued on each team, and call out, “Start” and “Stop.”

Leader Tip: For an added challenge, change how the rescuer has to travel across the room (hopping on one foot, crawling, rolling, etc.).

We’re going to play a game called Rescue Me! For this game, each round will have a rescuer who needs to get a teammate from one side of the room to the other. Here’s the catch: You have to do it in a specific way, and you only have two minutes to do it!

Point to the finish line. For the first round, the kids at the finish line are the rescuers for your team. Your job is to rescue one teammate. When I say, “Go,” you’ll walk “heel-to-toe” to the start line and rescue one teammate by gently tagging him. Together, you’ll both bunny hop back to the finish line. Then the person who was just rescued will walk “heel-to-toe” to the start line again and rescue the next teammate.

Together, the next two will bunny hop to the finish line. Each time, the player who was just rescued will be the one to rescue the next teammate. You’ll have two minutes to see how many of your teammates you can rescue, so you need to be quick.

Put two minutes on the timer, and start the activity. Do as many rounds as time allows.

You all did a great job with that rescue relay. Another word for rescue is save. We all need to be saved by God. Today we’re learning in God’s big story that God sent Jesus to save us.