

# SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US



## 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)

## GOD'S BIG STORY:

Jesus and the Woman at the Well  
(John 4)

## Welcome 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!

## Curiosity 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?

## POST-LARGE GROUP 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?

## Curiosity Activity: 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.**
- **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.
- **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.****



## Word of Wonder Activity

- **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.**
- **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.

## Responding in Worship: Living Water Bookmarks

- 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!)

## SMALL GROUP PRAYER

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!

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.