



Date: _____
Year 3, Lesson 53 (Spring)

Living Water for All

Primary Scripture: John 4:4-30

Key Verse: John 4:13-14, “Jesus answered her, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will become thirsty again. But those who drink the water that I will give them will never become thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give them will become in them a spring that gushes up to eternal life.’”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

The kids will learn through this lesson how they need living water. Living water is the Holy Spirit who brings us living faith in Jesus as our Savior. Jesus offered this faith to one unaccepted by fellow Jews. Jesus didn't die just for “good church” people, but also for those seen as unacceptable. Kids need to learn that living water is for all.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: While we were still sinners, Jesus died for the ungodly.

Jesus in us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God fills us with living water regardless of our differences and inadequacies.

Jesus through us: Jesus will make us ambassadors to all nations so that we can share in his acceptance and love.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.

Welcome Zone Video: Please note that if you show videos as the children wait for Kids Church to begin, *Larry Boy and the Rumor Weed* or *Are You My Neighbor* from the Veggie Tales series will go well with today's lesson.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: three glasses and a pitcher of water or three bottled waters

Volunteers:

- *Presenter 1: Mr. Smith (or use real name)*
- *Presenter 2: Mr. Jones (or use real name)*

In a lighthearted manner, the presenter will demonstrate how unfair and wrong it is to exclude someone.

Mr. Smith:

I am so glad you are here today. I got so hot and thirsty on the way to church this morning. Raise your hand if you would like some of my thirst quenching water.

Call three students up to the stage. Offer water to only two of the students and exclude one of them based on a superficial reason (*hair or eye color, grade, type of clothing, side of the room they were sitting, etc.*). Be sensitive and convey this in a comical way.

Do not use gender, race or other factors that are used in society to discriminate against other people.

Here you go, (first child) and (second child). Oh, I seem to have made a mistake. I am sorry, (third child), I didn't realize that you (identify a difference). I can't share my water with you.

Have second presenter come up and interrupt.

Mr. Jones: (Making time out hand motion.)

Time out here! Kids, is this how God teaches us to treat others?

Let kids respond.

What do you think (name of first presenter) should do? That's right. He/she should give (name of left out child) some water.

Mr. Smith:

But what about... (identify the discriminating feature: hair color, eyes, etc.)?

Mr. Jones:

Today we will discover how Jesus offered a special kind of water to someone that his friends didn't think deserved it. Jesus' friends thought the Samaritan people weren't as good as the Jews and therefore didn't deserve friendship with him. Jesus instead showed his friends through example that his love and grace are for all people.

Today Jesus offers living water to all of us. It isn't like the water here (point to drinking water). Instead, this water is for our souls. It is the Holy Spirit that lives inside, refreshing us and keeping our spirit alive. This spring of water inside of us gushes out as we share and model the love of Jesus Christ to the world.

Let's get filled up with living water and worship God. Tell him through our songs "I love you." That is like living water gushing out of us. We will talk more about this today. Are you ready to go along with me, Mr. Smith?

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: bowl with about one cup of mud; bowl of clean water; a washcloth; and towel

The two presenters do the following skit to demonstrate that it isn't just another person's sin that God disapproves of, but also how we as believers deal with sin. The following demonstrates how Jesus' disciples were wrong to look down upon the Samaritan woman since they, too, were sinners.

<p><i>Caution:</i> This is a messy demonstration.</p>

Both presenters (*Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones*) stand on the stage together.

Mr. Smith (*pretending to share a secret with the kids*), says:

Kids, I just heard that Mr. Jones (*or other presenter's real name*) just took his driving test. But that's not all I heard! I heard that Mr. Jones was late and so he cut in line. Can you believe it?

Get mud on hand and smear some gently on Mr. Jones' face who appears surprised that his behavior has been exposed.

Well, that's not all I heard. He also pushed a poor old lady out of the way so that he could sit in a desk that was near the window. How mean is that?

Smear more mud on Mr. Jones' face as he looks down in shame.

And if that wasn't enough, boys and girls, Mr. Jones cheated on the test. Oh yeah, cheated! Apparently he thought it was more important to play video games instead of study for the driving test. I didn't have to cheat on my driving test. I sure hope I don't end up driving on the same street as Mr. Jones. I bet he is a terrible driver.

Smear mud on Mr. Jones' face while shaking head in disapproval. Then say to kids:

Mr. Jones didn't really do all those bad things, but unfortunately this is how many of us treat each other. What does Mr. Jones have on his face? That's right, mud. But who else has mud on them? You're right. It's me. I have mud on me, too.

Kids, have you said anything mean or hurtful about anyone this week? Do you know talking bad about someone is like putting mud on his face? What does Jesus want us to do when we do such hurtful things? Right, he wants us to confess. Let's do that now.

Wash hands in bowl of water while saying the following prayer:

Dear God, we need you to forgive us for the times we think we are better than someone else. Maybe we repeated things that weren't nice about someone. Maybe God, we excluded others. We know this isn't what you want. Thank you for giving us Jesus to die on the cross in our place. He took away our sins so that we can be washed clean. Lord, help us to use uplifting words instead of hurtful ones. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Take washcloth and tenderly clean Mr. Jones' face and ask for his forgiveness.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: offering basket and a bottle of water (Using the bottle instead of a glass will ensure that the offering basket doesn't get wet.)

Place the bottled water in the middle of the offering basket and say:

Do you know that you can die if you go without water for three days? It is interesting that you can go much longer without food, but not water. We need it to live.

We also need God's living water to live eternally. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we receive this living water—the Holy Spirit.

Giving our offerings to Jesus is like saying "thank you" not only for this living water but for our physical needs, as well.

Option: Describe your current mission project. Explain that through the kid's monetary donation, important physical needs are being met. However, the greater gift is the message of salvation the recipients receive with this physical gift.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies: large bucket or other container filled with water; four smaller empty buckets; variety of small containers to carry the water such as bottle caps, spoons, thimbles, plastic syringe, plates, etc.

Pass the Water

Play this game, preferably outside if weather permits. Divide kids into four groups. The goal is to see which team can transfer the most water from the large bucket to their smaller bucket in five minutes.

Have each team form a line. Have teammates take turns going to the large bucket and scooping the water with a small container and running back to empty it in the team's bucket. When time is up, a judge (*child or adult*) uses a ruler to measure the water level in each bucket and declare a winner.

Did you have fun moving the water around? It wasn't easy carrying water in such little containers, was it? As a Christian, Jesus gives you a spring that GUSHES up to eternal life. And not only does this water gush, but it is in infinite supply. I could measure exactly how much water was in the bucket, but there isn't a ruler on earth that can measure the spring of life Jesus provides.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies: two clear drinking glasses or containers, a container or plastic dish with some dirt, a pitcher of water, a block or stand for the container or glass containing dirty water, several pieces of dampened and twisted pieces of paper toweling, spoon or stir stick

Note: In this lesson, you are setting up the Application activity prior to the Bible Presentation because it needs some time to work.

To illustrate Jesus' saving grace, use the following science experiment combining water (*living water*) with dirt (*our sin*) and some twisted paper toweling (*Jesus' blood that cleanses us*). As the paper soaks up the water and delivers it clean to the second glass, it pictures what Jesus' blood did to our sin. It took it away.



In advance, place a clean glass or clear container on a block somewhat higher than the second glass that is empty. Twist two or three pieces of dampened paper toweling and set them aside.

Place the toweling from one container to the other when the dialogue indicates. The paper will act as a wick and draw the water up and through the paper to the empty glass.

*It may take a while for the water to filter through. Get a head start by moistening the paper wicks with water before beginning.
For demonstration purposes, use clear containers.*

Did you know that if I had the right machine with me, I could measure how much water is inside of you right now? A good guess is about five pounds.

Now I don't mean to gross you out, but did you know that the water inside you has been in some really bizarre places? Places like rain that fell down the face of a tyrannosaurus rex; a stream where a beaver was gleefully swimming when oops, he had to go potty; how about ice from the top of Mt. Everest; or maybe even it was once water flowing in the Jordan River where John baptized Jesus.

This is possible because we have a finite amount of water on earth. What this means is that all the water on earth right now is the same amount that God put here when he created the earth. Its form and location may change, but not the amount. But as we just learned, the living water Jesus offers us is in endless supply.

Select a volunteer to come forward and help. As he/she comes up, fill the container or glass on the block with clean water.

So how does the living water Jesus offers change you?

Let's use this cup of water as an example. It is refreshing, clean water just like us when we were originally made in God's own image.

But then sin came along. Just like the mud that covered Mr. Jones' face earlier, we are all essentially covered in mud.

(Child's name), would you please take a handful of dirt and put it into the cup of water?

Child places a handful of dirt into the clean water that is in the container or glass sitting on the block.

What happened to our crystal clear water?

Stir the dirty water as you speak.

It became yucky, muddy water. But there is a way to separate the dirt out and make it clean again.

We will set these two containers aside while we watch a video. It is about a woman who met Jesus while she was retrieving water for her family.

Place the dampened towel wicks from one container to the other. It will filter and siphon the water while you watch the video.

Video

Play the video, *The Gospel of John*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show the portion covering John 4:1-30. Time stamp should be 17:40 and conclude at 21:07 (3 minutes, 27 seconds of video time).

After seeing the video, continue with the Application.

Application:

Option One: Continue with water experiment.

Wasn't that a wonderful account of how much Jesus loves us? He offers the gift of living water to all of us. No one is unacceptable to him.

Call a child up and have him/her look at the water that is draining from the dirty glass or container to the empty glass.

This is amazing! (Child's name), what do you see?

Let child respond and then show kids the filtered water.

This paper wick is like Jesus who cleanses us from our sin so that we will be clean again. He is the only way we can be set apart and freed from our sin.



If presenter wants to, he/she can take a drink of the newly cleaned water.

Option Two: Water Bottle Craft

Supplies: a bottle of water (one for each child); printed labels with the message: Line 1 "Water—quenches thirst for a moment"; Line 2 "Living water—quenches thirst for a lifetime."

Pass out water bottles and labels to the children. Let them stick the label on the bottle and then encourage them to give this special water bottle to someone who doesn't know Jesus.

To remind you of Jesus' gift of living water, I want to send you home with a bottle of water. The label for you to attach to the bottle says, "Water—quenches thirst for a moment. Living water—quenches thirst for a lifetime."

I want to encourage you to take this home and, instead of keeping it for yourself, share it with a friend who doesn't know about this wonderful gift of living water that Jesus offers us.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have the children share times when they felt hurt or excluded. Then have them share what happened so that they didn't feel left out anymore.

Encourage kids to remember how this feels and to share Jesus' love just as Jesus showed love to the woman at the well.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Attention Grabber:

- three water glasses
- pitcher of water
- or three bottles of water

The Power of the Cross:

- bowl with about one cup of mud
- bowl of clean water
- a washcloth

Offering:

- offering basket
- disposable water bottle

Learning Game:

- large bucket or other container filled with water
- four smaller empty buckets
- variety of small containers to carry the water (*bottle caps, spoons, thimbles, plastic syringe, plates, etc.*)

Bible Presentation:

- two clear glasses or containers
- plastic dish with dirt
- a pitcher of water
- a block or stand for the container or glass of dirty water
- several pieces of dampened and twisted pieces of paper toweling
- spoon or stir stick
- *The Gospel of John* video, produced by the Visual Bible International, 2003—order from your local video rental store or from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=752

Application:

Option one

- items in *Bible Presentation* for water filtering demonstration

Option two

- a disposable bottle of water (one for each child)
- printed labels (one for each bottle); message on label reads: Line 1 *“Water—quenches thirst for a moment,”* Line 2 *“Living water—quenches thirst for a lifetime.”*