



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers' Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 37

Woman at the Well

Take Home Point: *Jesus accepts sinners—and fills us with living water. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 4:1-42

Key Verse: Romans 5:6, "Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well.
- Jesus accepts sinners and we, by nature, are sinful.
- Spiritual thirst is when we feel distant from God or desire more of him.
- Living water is God's Holy Spirit poured out on those who believe in Jesus as their Savior. It quenches spiritual thirst.




We will help kids feel:

- A physical thirst that implies the spiritual thirst of feeling distant from God.
- Joy in understanding that Jesus accepts them.

We will help kids do:

- Eat crackers to create thirst and quench thirst by drinking water.
- Identify times when they have experienced a time-out or have been left out of group games, thus identifying with the Samaritan woman.
- Participate in water activities to demonstrate Jesus' living water in our lives.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	Children discuss times they have felt left out and times they have been in time-out and how that feels sad and lonely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saltine crackers or popcorn • pitcher of water • cups
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	4 8 11 12	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Out of Time-Out”—Gordy talks about his expertise in time-outs. Video: <i>Gospel of John</i> —John 4:1-42 Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Out of Time-Out”—Gordy learns that Jesus accepts us and forgives us and wants to fill our lives with his living water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • orange construction vest • construction hat • work boots • sign on stick that says “Thirsty? Don’t use a sink.” (p. 14)—on the front and “Get (living water) for a drink.” (p. 15)—on the back • two or four chairs • cardboard car front • DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International 2003. Order from: www.visualbible.com • spray bottle of water or squirt gun
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	Children use a water activity to demonstrate how Jesus can quench our spiritual thirst with living water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pitcher of water • scissors • tape • cups (one per child) • straight straws (one per child) • bendable straws (one per child)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: saltine crackers or popcorn, clear pitcher of ice water, cups

Pass out crackers and invite kids to eat them while discussing questions. Have a clear pitcher of ice water in view to entice their thirst. Keep cups out of view. Begin with:

Time-out usually happens at home or school when there is a consequence for something you have done. It is like punishment or separation for unwanted behavior until you are ready to rejoin the group or activity. How many of you have experienced a time-out for something? What did you do and how did you feel in time-out?

How many of you have ever felt left out of something at school? Or, maybe you didn't get invited to a birthday party that you wanted to attend. What did that feel like?

How many of you have ever felt like you were in time-out with God or that you were far away from him? Maybe you felt lonely or felt that God didn't want to have anything to do with you. Maybe you felt sad. Maybe you didn't feel peaceful in your heart.

The Bible describes those feelings of isolation from God as spiritual thirst. Just like maybe you are thirsty right now and would like a glass of water.

Bring out cups and give kids a drink of water.

Sometimes our souls inside are thirsty and we need to be filled up with God's presence. The Bible calls that living water. We will discover that today when we learn **Jesus accepts sinners—and fills us with living water.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Out of Time-Out”—Gordy talks about his expertise in time-outs.

Video: *Gospel of John*—John 4:1-42

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Out of Time-Out”—Gordy learns that Jesus accepts us and forgives us and wants to fill our lives with his living water.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to John 4:1-42 in their Bibles.

Where was Jesus when he met the Samaritan woman? (*John 4:4-6. He was at a well in Samaria.*)

What did Jesus first say to the Samaritan woman? (*John 4:7. Give me a drink of water.*)

Why was the woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her? (*John 4:9. He was a Jewish man. She was a Samaritan woman. Jews did not associate with Samaritans.*)

How was Jesus' water different than the water from this well? (*John 4:13. If one drank from the water in the well, he/she would get thirsty again. Jesus was offering living water. Those that drank it would never get thirsty again.*)

How did Jesus describe this water in verse 14? (*A spring in a person that gushes up to eternal life.*)

What did Jesus tell the woman he knew about her? (*John 4:17-18. She had five husbands previously and the man she lived with was not her husband.*)

What did this woman do because Jesus told her he knew her secrets? (*John 4:28-29. She left her water jar, went back to the city and told the people that she had met a man who told her everything she had ever done.*)

Who did Jesus say he was to this woman? (*John 4:24-26. The Messiah or the Christ.*)

What was the result of this woman's witness? (*John 4:39. Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of her.*)

What happened because Jesus stayed in Samaria for two days? (*John 4:41. Many more Samaritans believed because of what Jesus said.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think the Jews thought about Jesus visiting and teaching in Samaria? (*It probably made them angry that Jesus spent time with sinners.*)

How did the Samaritans grow in faith during Jesus' stay? (*John 4:42. Their faith was no longer based on what the woman said, but now that they had heard him themselves, they believed Jesus was the Savior of the world.*)

What can we conclude because Jesus went to the sinful Samaritan woman and spent time teaching the Samaritans? (*That Jesus accepts all people, even sinners.*)

How else can you describe Jesus' living water or "spring that gushes up to eternal life"? (*Faith in Jesus as the Savior who brings eternal life. The hope, joy and peace we have because of Jesus. The Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts when we accept Jesus.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: pitcher of water; transparent tape; scissors; a straight straw, a bendable straw, and a cup for each child

Tell kids you will do an activity to remind them of the “spring that gushes up to eternal life.”

Pour water in all the kids’ cups. Place a bendable straw (do not bend straw yet) in the water and the other straw outside the cup. Have kids put both straws in their mouth at the same time and try to get a drink. It doesn’t work very well with one straw in and one straw out of the cup. Ask:

Were you successful in getting a big drink of water? (No.) This is like the Samaritan woman who tried to gain satisfaction in her life by filling it up with different husbands. Jesus said that she needed living water. She needed to know that Jesus was the Messiah. This would fill her up.

Now let’s think about how we receive living water. Take the bendable straw and bend it into the letter “J.” (You may need to turn it upside down.) This reminds us of Jesus, who accepts us just as we are even though we are sinners.

Sometimes, we are like the Samaritan woman and try to take our straw and drink from empty air outside our glass. What are things people might try to fill themselves with that make them feel empty? (Relationships, addictions, too much of anything, etc...)

When we connect with Jesus, this is what can happen.

Have kids cut an inch slit into the straight straw to be able to push it into the short section of the bendable straw. (*Shepherds may need to help the younger children cut the straw.*) Use two pieces of tape to seal the connected straws together. Tape the connected part first and then tape just above that. (*You need to do this correctly so there is a good seal and no air can leak out.*)

Now have kids all put their bendable straw in the pitcher leaving the straight straw outside the pitcher. (*In order to make this work, the end of straw that is outside the pitcher needs to be below the pitcher or water line. You may need to refill the pitcher because the more water pressure you have, the better.*)

Hold pitcher up high enough so the children can stand up and drink from the straw outside the pitcher. Once the water starts flowing he/she can stop and hold the cup underneath the straw. *The water should continue to flow out because you have made a*

siphon from the straws. Remember the trick to this application is to get a tight seal from the tape.

Stand under the straw and take a drink. Once you get some water, stop drinking and hold your cup under the straw and see what happens.

Pull the straws out of the pitcher before the cups overflow.

The Samaritan women did not have a good life. This water experiment reminds us of her life and how she tried to live her life by fulfilling it with people/things other than Jesus. Sometimes, this can be like sucking in air when we really need water. Once she was connected with Jesus and felt accepted by him, it's like the two straws now connected together.

We can be connected to Jesus and feel accepted by him also. This siphon effect is like the living water rushing through you and flowing out into the world.

Remember, **Jesus accepts sinners—and fills us with living water. He also wants us to go and tell others like the Samaritan woman did, that “... At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people” (key verse for today from Romans 5:6), so all sinners would come to him.*

Closing Prayer:

Thank Jesus that he came to earth and died for ungodly people to fill us with his living water. Thank him that when we drink from Jesus' living water, or believe in him as our Savior, we can have life with him that lasts forever. Pray for this living water to flow through our lives to others so they may also drink the living water and have eternal life.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feed back and interact with or about the event.

This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.

Supplies: orange construction vest; construction hat; work boots; sign on stick that says, "Thirsty? Don't use a sink" on the front and "Get (living water) for a drink" on the back; two or four chairs; cardboard car front; DVD Gospel of John, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003; spray bottle of water or squirt gun

Gordy Gets Out of Time-Out Puppet Presentation

Presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots.

Presenter: Kid's should we call Gordy?

Kids call for Gordy: Gordy... Gordy... Gordy.

Gordy comes out singing "I Am the Champion" to the tune of *We Are the Champions*.

Presenter: Gordy, why are you singing "I Am the Champion"?

Gordy: Well, we were talking about time-outs and I am the champion of the world. I have had more than anyone.

Presenter: Gordy, I'm not sure that is something to be proud of.

Gordy: Well, someone has to be good at it.

Presenter: Well, I don't know if it's a good idea to be proud of things you did bad.

Gordy: I didn't do bad things. I just got in time-out.

Presenter: What do you mean?

Gordy: Well, like... playing dodge ball. That's not bad.

Presenter: That doesn't sound bad.

Gordy: But I got in a time-out for it.

Presenter: Why was that?

Gordy: I don't know. My mom said something about the living room is no place to play dodge ball.

Presenter: Gordy, I think you know better than that.

Gordy: I know now. I've had quite a bit of experience in time-outs. You want to hear my top 100 time outs?

Presenter: No, Gordy. We don't have time for it.

Gordy: My top 50?

Presenter: No thanks, Gordy.

Gordy: Oh, come on. How about my top five.

Presenter: Gordy.

Gordy: Kids, do you want to hear them?

Kids: Yes!

Presenter: That's not fair, Gordy.

Gordy: Well, they want to hear them.

Presenter: Okay. What are your top five reasons for time-outs?

Gordy: Well, once I rode my bike into our pool to see if I could ride on water. Another time, I told my mom her spinach meatloaf smelled like my dad's stinky socks. Okay, that's two down and three to go. Hmm. One time I gave all my sister's Barbies a whirlpool bath (pause...) in the toilet!

Another time, I played cat bowling in my living room. And last, but not least, I poured jelly into the piano to make it sound sweeter.

Presenter: Gordy, I think you are really going to enjoy today's lesson because we are learning how Jesus met a sinner and he still accepted her.

Gordy: Was she in time-out?

Presenter: Sort of... but Jesus still accepted her.

Gordy: What does that have to do with me?

Presenter: Well, Gordy, you're a sinner and you need Jesus to accept you.

Gordy: Hey, wait a minute. Who says I'm a sinner?

Presenter: What about all those time-outs?

Gordy: What can I say? I'm a misunderstood kid.

Presenter: No, Gordy. The Bible says all of us make mistakes and all of us are sinners.

Gordy: Even you?

Presenter: That's right, even me. And, everyone knows what it is like sometimes to feel far away from God. Kind of like we are in time-out. The Bible describes that as being spiritually thirsty.

Gordy: I think I know what that feels like. Is it kinda sad on the inside?

Presenter: Yes, and kind of lonely, too.

Gordy: Is it kinda like when you are picked last for dodge ball?

Presenter: Yeah, and you feel left out. It's like that left out feeling.

Gordy: And then when you try to get better at dodge ball by practicing in the living room and you get in trouble.

Presenter: Yes, especially at times like that. That's when you need Jesus to give you something.

Gordy: Dodge ball lessons?

Presenter: No. Living water.

Gordy: What?

Presenter: That's what Jesus says. Living water is the pouring out of his Spirit so that he fills you up. It's what happens when you know and trust Jesus as your Savior and you are forgiven.

Gordy: That does feel pretty good.

Presenter: It sure does. Today let's watch what happened to Jesus when he met this woman from Samaria. Now when you watch this, understand that in Jesus' day none of the Jews had anything to do with Samaritans. Jesus was a Jew. Many Jews disliked Samaritans because they were different from them. Jews didn't feel Samaritans worshiped God in the right way. It was custom for Jews never to speak to a Samaritan and, especially, a man shouldn't speak to a woman. But notice that Jesus is going to speak to a woman who is a Samaritan and the woman is known in her town as a sinner.

Gordy: What's Jesus going to say?

Presenter: Since he meets her by a well, he is going to talk about water. So kids, any time you hear the word "water," clap once. And, try to remember what kind of water Jesus offers the woman. Let's watch.

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 4:1-42. Begin just after narrator says, "...but will remain under God's punishment." and end it just after narrator says, "We know that he really is the Savior of the world." The length of the clip is 5 minutes.

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 4:1-42

Presenter is holding a sign that says, "Thirsty? Don't use the sink." The back of the sign says, "Get _____ (*living water*) for a drink." He will be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for a game.

Presenter: I need some volunteers. I need two kids and a shepherd to come up and get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have kids come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

On "Believers' Highway" kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust

Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!

I've got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, "Thirsty-don't use the sink." and the back says, "Get blank, blank (*living water*) for a drink." It rhymes with the front of the sign. Who wants to give it a shot?

Allow for a few guesses. Then bring out the squirt gun or spray bottle.

Let's ask our people in the car a couple questions. If you get the question right, you'll get to squirt the audience. But, if you miss, I get to squirt you! Deal?

- 1. What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman at the well?**
(He offered her living water.)
- 2. What did the Samaritan woman do when she discovered that Jesus was the Messiah?** *(She ran back to the city and told the people to come with her and meet a man who told her everything she had ever done. Could he be the Messiah?)*
- 3. Jesus accepted the Samaritan woman who was a sinner. Today who does Jesus accept that really needs him?** *(All of us who are sinners that come to him.)*
- 4. After Jesus stayed there two days, did people believe in him because of what the woman said, or because of what they saw for themselves?** *(They now heard Jesus for themselves and believed he was the Savior of the world.)*

Gordy Gets Out of Time-Out

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Presenter... (or insert your presenter's name).

Presenter: Yes, Gordy.

Gordy: I think you should be in time-out.

Presenter: Why?

Gordy: For letting those kids spray everyone.

Presenter: We are just trying to remember the point of today's Bible event.

Gordy: Yeah. Don't make a mistake or you'll get sprayed.

Presenter: That's not quite it. The point is that even when we make mistakes, we turn to Jesus. And, you know what he does?

Gordy: Yeah. He accepts us.

Presenter: Right. You can ask him for forgiveness.

Gordy: And he will forgive me every time, even if I'm in time-out?

Presenter: More than that, Gordy. God will fill you with living water. His Holy Spirit lives in you so you know how much he loves you. Jesus will work through you so that others will meet Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah. Would you like to say a prayer for us?

Gordy: Sure. Dear Jesus, thank you for accepting us even when we goof up. We are sorry. Please forgive us. But we need you to fill us up with living water like your Holy Spirit. Help each one of us to open our hearts to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Thirsty?
Don't use
a sink.

Get
(living
water) for
a drink.