Preschool–Grade 6

The Woman at the Well

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus loves everyone, even people others stay away from, and He offers everyone living water.
Bible passage: John 4:1–42. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." *John 4:14 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Who Gets Left Out? (5–10 minutes)

Play a quick round of "Four Corners": name the corners 1, 2, 3 and 4. Kids walk to a corner while you count to five; you call a number with your eyes closed, and the kids in that corner sit out. Play two rounds. Then ask: *How did it feel to be the one sitting out?* Talk about times people get left out: at lunch, at recess, in a game. Say: "In Jesus' day, two groups of people stayed away from each other. Today Jesus talks with someone others left out."

2. Bible story: Living Water (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to John 4. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Tired at the well. Jesus left Judaea to go back to Galilee (John 4:3). **Look up John 4:4. Must needs go** means He had to go. He came to **Sychar**, a city of Samaria, near the field Jacob gave his son Joseph (4:5). **Look up John 4:6. Wearied** means tired. **The sixth hour** was about noon (the Jews counted the hours of the day from sunrise). His disciples had gone into the city to buy **meat**, the KJV word for food (4:8).

A surprising question. A woman of Samaria came to draw water, and Jesus said, "Give me to drink" (4:7). **Look up John 4:9. No dealings** means the Jews and the Samaritans kept away from each other. But Jesus spoke to her anyway. **Look up John 4:10.** Jesus offered her **living water**. She said He had nothing to draw with, and the well was deep, and asked if He was greater than "our father Jacob, which gave us the well" (4:11–12).

Water that never runs out. Look up John 4:13–14. Well water helps for a while, but you get thirsty again. The water Jesus gives becomes "a well of water springing up into everlasting life" inside the person. Later Jesus explained it: the living water is the Spirit, the Holy Ghost (John 7:38–39). The woman said, "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw" (4:15).

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Jesus knew her life. Jesus said, "Go, call thy husband." She said, "I have no husband." Jesus told her she was right: she had had five husbands, and the man she had now was not her husband (4:16–18). Jesus knew all about her life, things nobody had told Him. **Look up John 4:19. Perceive** means see or understand. A **prophet** speaks for God.

God is a Spirit. She said her fathers worshipped "in this mountain," but the Jews said Jerusalem was the place to worship (4:20). Jesus said the hour was coming when people would worship the Father neither in that mountain nor at Jerusalem, but in spirit and in truth (4:21–23). **Look up John 4:24. God is a Spirit:** He does not have a body of flesh and bones like ours (Luke 24:39), and He fills heaven and earth (Jeremiah 23:24). There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), and that one God came to earth in a body of flesh as Jesus (1 Timothy 3:16). **In spirit and in truth** means from the heart, and the way God's Word says, not just by going to a certain place.

"I am he." The woman said, "I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ" (4:25). **Messias** is the KJV spelling of Messiah, the Saviour God promised. **Look up John 4:26.** Jesus told her He is the One. The disciples came back and **marvelled** (were amazed) that He talked with the woman (4:27).

Come, see. Look up John 4:28–29. She left her **waterpot** and went into the city to tell the men. They came out to Jesus (4:30). **Look up John 4:39. Testified** means told what she knew. The Samaritans **besought** Him (begged Him) to **tarry** (stay), and He **abode** (stayed) two days (4:40). **Look up John 4:42.** Many more believed when they heard Jesus themselves.

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3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The Jews and the Samaritans stayed away from each other (4:9). Why do you think Jesus talked with her anyway?
2. Who are people that kids sometimes leave out? What could you do this week to be kind to one of them?
3. Jesus knew everything about the woman and still offered her living water (4:10, 4:18). What does that tell you about how Jesus loves you?
4. The woman told her city right away (4:28–29). Who could you tell about Jesus?
5. What is the difference between well water and the living water Jesus gives (4:13–14)?

Recall questions

1. What was the name of the city? *(Sychar, John 4:5)*
2. Whose well was it? *(Jacob's well, 4:6)*
3. How many days did Jesus stay with the Samaritans? *(Two days, 4:40)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **whosoever** means anyone, **drinketh** means drinks, **thirst** means be thirsty, **springing up** means bubbling up like a spring of fresh water, and **everlasting** means forever. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus offered the woman living water, and Jesus said the living water is the Spirit, the Holy Ghost (John 7:38–39). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: sit with, play with or talk with someone who usually gets left out. Tell one person what Jesus has done for you.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. John 4:3: Where was Jesus going? *(Into Galilee)*
2. John 4:5: What was the city of Samaria called? *(Sychar)*
3. John 4:8: Why had the disciples gone into the city? *(To buy meat, which means food)*
4. John 4:11: What did the woman say about the well? *(The well is deep)*
5. John 4:19: What did the woman perceive Jesus was? *(A prophet)*
6. John 4:28: What did the woman leave? *(Her waterpot)*
7. John 4:35: What did Jesus say the fields were white for? *(Harvest)*
8. John 4:42: What did the people call Jesus? *(The Christ, the Saviour of the world)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus loves everyone, even people others leave out. Thank You for the living water that never runs out. Help us be kind to everyone, and give us courage to tell others, 'Come and see.' In Jesus' name, amen."

About the woman's husbands (John 4:16–18): read the verses as written. The Bible does not say why she had had five husbands, so don't guess or add to it. Keep the focus where John keeps it: Jesus knew everything about her and still offered her living water, and she told her city, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did" (4:29).

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