Preschool–Grade 6

The Woman at the Well

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus loves everyone, and He gives living water that never runs out.
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, 6 water drops cut from blue paper, a marker, tape, a chair to be the "well", crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper drops (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at John 4:13.

1. Opening game: Come and See (5 minutes)

Put a chair at one end of the room. That is the "well." Stand by it. Choose one child, take their hand and walk them to the well, saying, "Come and see!" Now that child goes and brings one more friend the same way, saying, "Come and see!" Then each child at the well brings another friend, until the whole class is at the well. Ask: *How did everyone get to the well?* (Someone came and told them.) Say: "Today we will meet a woman who met Jesus at a well. Then she went and told the people of her city, 'Come, see!'"

2. Bible story: Jesus Meets a Woman at a Well (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 4, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus was going on a long walk, from Judaea to Galilee, and He went through a land called **Samaria** (John 4:3–4). He came to a city of Samaria called **Sychar**. **Jacob's well** was there (4:5–6). The well was deep (4:11). Jesus was **wearied**, which means tired, from walking, so He sat on the well. It was about **the sixth hour**, about the middle of the day (4:6). His disciples had gone into the city to buy food (4:8).

A woman of Samaria came to **draw water**, which means to get water out of the well (4:7). Jesus said to her, "Give me to drink." That means "Please give Me a drink." The woman was surprised. She asked how He, a Jew, could ask a drink of her, a woman of Samaria. The Jews and the Samaritans had **no dealings** with each other. That means they stayed away from each other (4:9). But Jesus talked with her kindly. **Jesus loves everyone.**

Jesus said that if she knew who was asking her for a drink, she would have asked Him, and He would have given her **living water** (4:10). She said, "Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep" (4:11).

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The story continues: **Read John 4:13–14 from your Bible:** "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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." Say: "Water from a well only helps for a little while, and then you get thirsty again. The living water Jesus gives lasts forever. **Everlasting life** means life with God that never ends."

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water" (4:15). Then Jesus told her true things about her life, things nobody had told Him (4:16–18). She said, "Sir, I **perceive**," that means I can see, "that thou art a **prophet**," someone who speaks for God (4:19). They talked about where people should worship God. Jesus said, "**God is a Spirit**" (4:24). That means God does not have a body like ours, and we can't see Him, but He is everywhere. We can worship Him anywhere, with all our heart and in the truth of His Word.

The woman said, "I know that **Messias** cometh, which is called Christ." Messias means the Saviour God promised to send. Jesus said to her, "**I that speak unto thee am he**" (4:25–26). That means "I am the One!"

Then the disciples came back. They **marvelled**, which means they were surprised, that Jesus was talking with the woman (4:27). The woman left her **waterpot**, the jar she carried water in, and went into the city. She said to the men, "**Come, see a man**, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (4:28–29). The people went out of the city and came to Jesus (4:30). Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of what the woman said (4:39). Jesus stayed with them two days (4:40), and many more believed when they heard Jesus themselves. They said, "This is indeed the Christ, the **Saviour of the world**" (4:41–42).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus sit down to rest? *(On Jacob's well, John 4:6)*
2. What did Jesus ask the woman? *("Give me to drink," 4:7)*
3. What kind of water did Jesus offer her? *(Living water, 4:10)*
4. What did the woman leave behind when she went into the city? *(Her waterpot, 4:28)*
5. What did she tell the men of the city? *("Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did," 4:29)*

4. Memory verse: Water Drops (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 drops up in order: *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.* Explain the old words: **whosoever** means anyone, **drinketh** means drinks, **thirst** means be thirsty, **springing up** means bubbling up like fresh water from the ground, and **everlasting** means forever. Read the verse together. Then take one drop away and read it again. Keep taking drops away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus offered the woman living water. Later Jesus told us that the living water is the Spirit, the Holy Ghost (John 7:38–39). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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: be kind to someone others leave out, like Jesus was. Tell one person, "Come and see what Jesus did!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **woman at the well word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/woman-at-the-well-word-search), the woman at the well crossword, maze or worksheet, the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/woman-at-the-well), or **Who Will I Tell?** Each child draws one person they can tell about Jesus this week on their take-home sheet.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus loves everyone, and that He loves me. Thank You for the living water that never runs out. Help us be kind to everyone and tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen."

About the woman's husbands (John 4:16–18): Jesus told her that she had had five husbands, and that the man she had now was not her husband. The Bible does not say why, so don't guess or add to it. For this age, "Jesus knew all about her life, and He still talked with her kindly" is enough. If a child asks, point to what she told the city: "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did" (4:29).

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