



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1–42

Memory Verse

“Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14

Context/Background

Travelling from Judea in southern Palestine to Galilee in the north, Jesus passes through the territory of the despised Samaritans, stopping in the town called Sychar. Samaritans were a group of people who had a unique religious identity and were often considered outsiders by Jews.

Jesus encounters a woman at a well in the middle of the day in the heat of the day. This means she is an outcast as she would not want to be there in the cool of the day when most people went. It would be unheard of for a Samaritan woman to be spoken to by a Jewish man, especially a Rabbi.

Summary

The event takes place at Jacob's well. Jesus is resting by the well after a long journey while his disciples go into town to buy food. It is the middle of the day. A woman comes to draw water from the well and Jesus asks her to give him some water to drink. She is surprised because a Jewish man wouldn't normally talk to a Samaritan woman.

Jesus talks to the woman about living water, spiritual fulfilment. He says that anyone who drinks this living water will have eternal life. Jesus knows all about her private life, which convinces her that he must be a prophet.

She asks about worship, and Jesus reveals his identity as Messiah to her. She becomes like an evangelist and goes off to share the good news with the whole town. Because of her witness, many people come to hear Jesus speak and many people become Christians.

Relevance/Application Themes: **compassion, forgiveness, inclusiveness, sincerity in worship**

Younger students:

- Jesus wants all people to be saved and to worship him
- God loves you and wants you to live with him forever in heaven.
- We should share the good news that Jesus has come to save us with everyone.

Older students:

- Jesus is the living water – he can quench our spiritual thirst and the grace he won for us on the cross washes us clean from our sins.
- Jesus loves, accepts and forgives all regardless of cultural or social barriers.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Beliefs

Key Idea 2: The person and work of Jesus the Christ is central to Christianity

Key Idea 3: A Christian worldview is shaped by the biblical teaching of sin and grace

Christian Living

Key Idea 2: Christians are called to love and serve all people

**Catechism
Connections**

In the third petition of the Lord's Prayer we say:
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

'God's will' means what God wants to happen. A very important thing that God wants to happen is that people believe in Jesus as their Saviour and have the forgiveness of sins and life with God forever. We ask God in this prayer to help us and other people to believe in Jesus, just as the woman in today's story did.

**Discussion/Wondering
Questions:**

Early Years

- Who knows what a well is for?
- Why was the woman at the well?
- How did the woman feel when Jesus asked her for water?

Primary

- Why do you think Jesus talked to the woman even though they were from different places?
- How do you think the woman felt when Jesus knew things about her past?
- What is the special water Jesus talks about?
- How can we show kindness and acceptance of people who are different to us, just like Jesus did?

Secondary

- Why do you think this story takes place at the well?
 - What cultural and social barriers were there in this story? How might it relate to issues of inclusion and diversity today?
 - What do you think "living water" means?
 - How does this woman's encounter with Jesus lead to transformation?
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**Images or objects to
spark discussion**



Figure 1 https://bethbc.edu/acblog/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/02/living_water_jesus_christ-scaled.jpeg

Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

Creative Storytelling: [Drama script](#) (Secondary)

Other Resources

GROW Ministries

GROW Kids Year A - [THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT John 4:1-42 Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Women](#)

Audio Stories/Podcasts

Bible.is - <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/audio-bible-resources/bible-is>

Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. All four gospels also available in film versions, searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Kids Corner – Bible Stories - [The Woman at the Well](#)

Videos:

Early Years / Junior Primary

[Jesus and the Woman at the Well | Stories of the Bible - Saddleback Kids](#)

Middle – Upper Primary

[The Gospel Project for Kids: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman - The Gospel Project](#)

[Woman at the Well | Let's Go - Crossroads Kids' Club](#)

Secondary/Staff

[Retelling of the story – The Chosen](#) (7 mins)

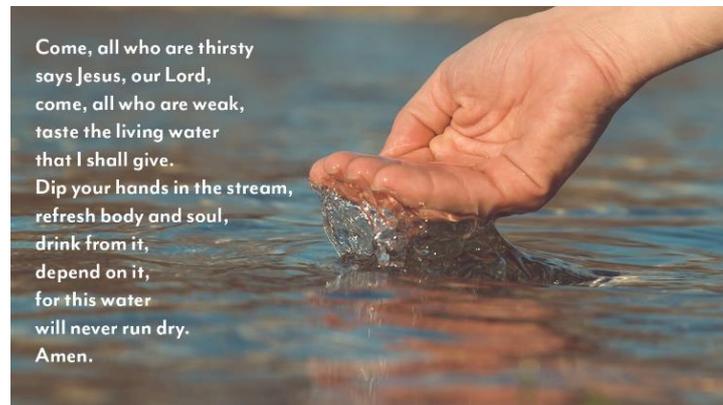
[Why the woman at the well is so important – Behind the Chosen](#)

[Why water matters in the Bible](#) - The Bible Project

[John 4 | The Woman at the Well | Bible Study - Spoken Gospel](#)

[Samaritan Woman LIFE OF JESUS \(GOSPEL OF JOHN\) - Jesusfilm](#)

Invocation



Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord,
come, all who are weak,
taste the living water
that I shall give.
Dip your hands in the stream,
refresh body and soul,
drink from it,
depend on it,
for this water
will never run dry.
Amen.

Prayers

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for our Saviour Jesus
Thank you that His 'water' will help us
Please help us to share His message
And to love all those around us
Thank you for your love
In Jesus name, Amen.

Dear Jesus, we thank you because you give us not only food and drink to keep our bodies alive, but also God's love and forgiveness to keep us alive as God's children. Help us always to believe that you love us and have forgiven us, so that we can live forever. **Amen.**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the living water of eternal life.
Help us to believe in you and to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Amen

[Samaritan Woman image with prayer](#) - from Archdiocese of Regina (Catholic Church of Canada)

Mealtime Prayer

Our hands we fold,
our heads we bow.
For food and drink,
we thank God now.
Amen.

Blessing

May you drink deeply of the living water
And may the spring of eternal life flow through you,
Sharing the love of God with a thirsty world.
Amen.

Encourage participants to bless each other, using the following words (or you can make up your own).
(Name), may Jesus pour his love into your heart and may it overflow to others.

Music

[This is our God](#) Worship kids
[Who you say I am](#) - Yancy
[Lord I need you](#) - Kids Version

[The Well](#) - Casting Crowns
[Living Waters](#) – Shane and Shane
[Living Water](#) - Anne Wilson –
[O Come To The Altar - Elevation Worship](#)
[Living Waters](#) – Keith & Kristyn Getty

I heard the voice of Jesus say (Lutheran Hymnal 306) or [I Heard the Voice - Emu Music](#)

Activities

Early Years:

- Play an outdoor game with a big bowl of clean water, a small bucket or dipper and a cup for each child. Take turns serving a drink of water to each other.

Primary:

- Watercolour painting. Demonstrate that you need water to turn the blocks of watercolour paints into liquid paint so they can brush it onto their paper. Talk briefly about the need for water. Each child can think of one of these things and paint a picture of it. When pictures are dry, the children can write the following Bible verse on their painting: To everyone who is thirsty, he gives something to drink. Psalm 107:9

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- [Imaginative Prayer Resource](#) - spend some time in quiet reflection while the script is read aloud, and you look at the images provided.
- Create your own artwork in response to this story.

Resource from All age worship service: [ShortAAW015-Encountering-Jesus-Samaritan-woman.pdf \(allageworshipresources.org\)](#). Contains some good ideas for a message, object talk and prayers. Would need to be edited for length.
