

LESSON 2

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Samaria

When the ten tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians, many Israelites were deported to Assyria and foreigners came to settle in the capital city of Samaria (2 Kgs 17:24). The intermarriage between these foreigners with the remaining Jews resulted in a mixed race called Samaritans. The Jews from the southern kingdom of Judah saw this race as impure—the cause of the long-standing hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans. After their return from exile some seventy years later, the Jews refused help from the Samaritans in rebuilding the temple. Later still, the Samaritans built a temple on Mount Gerizim to parallel the one in Jerusalem, but it was destroyed by the Jew John Hyrcanus, a member of the Maccabees, approximately one hundred and fifty years before the time of Christ.

The Samaritan Woman

This Samaritan woman recorded in the Bible was not given a name. This was not unusual in the Gospel of John. There are a number of characters who are unnamed, such as the Beloved Disciple, the Paralyzed Man at the Pool, the Man Born Blind, and the Royal Official. They were real people with their own names, identities, and stories, but leaving them nameless heightened the symbolism in their stories.

Jacob's Well

This is an undisputed site in Palestine that still exists today. Jacob dug it in the "parcel of land" which he purchased from the sons of Hamor (Gen 33:19). While the well might contain a little water after much rainfall, it is now usually quite dry these days. The well is located at the entrance to the valley between Ebal and Gerizim, about 2 miles southeast of Shechem. It is about 9 feet wide and 75 feet deep, though in ancient times it was probably twice as deep. The digging of such a well would have been a very laborious and costly undertaking.

BIBLE TEXT

John 4:3-42

BIBLE TRUTH

God loves all people.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To encourage the students to share their experiences of God with others.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love one another;
as I have loved you."

(John 13:34b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You so much for loving us every day. We know that there are still many people who have not yet come to know You. Please give us the courage and kindness to reach out to others. Give us the strength and wisdom to say and do the right things so that we can share Your precious love with others. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

When the disciples saw Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman, they were shocked that He would disregard the centuries-long practice of having no contact with Samaritans. However, Jesus had not come to earth to save only the Jews. His message of salvation was for all people. The disciples had yet to understand this unconditional love.

Your students will likely be much more open-minded than this. At school, they are taught to embrace all cultures and races because everyone is equal and not to exclude others from being their friends or avoid being around them

solely on such bases. This is the kind of love Jesus preached and practiced. Encourage your students to always show love for everyone. However, when it comes to their faith, Jesus Christ is the only Savior. Also encourage your students to introduce Jesus to their friends whenever the opportunity arises. No matter how different others' beliefs may be, there will always be people ready to listen to God's words. Remind them that God will help them. By doing so, they will follow the example Jesus set at Jacob's well.

VOCABULARY

ordinary: normal, nothing special

disciples: followers

Samaritans: a mixed race with Jewish ancestry that was despised by "pure Jews"

Savior: one who rescues or saves; Christ

REVIEW

[As the students come into the classroom, ask them to sit in a circle.]

Last week, we learned about a man called Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee who had a lot of questions for Jesus.

Do you remember what time of the day he went to see Jesus? [Pause for students to answer.] Yes, he went to speak to Jesus at night because he didn't want other people to see him. Why was he afraid of being seen?

[Pause.] He was a Pharisee himself, and Pharisees hated Jesus. He didn't want people to think that he was a follower of Jesus. However, deep in his heart, he knew that Jesus was not an ordinary man. He knew that he had to meet Jesus to ask some questions. Therefore, he finally made up his mind to go. What was the result of his visit? [Pause.] That's right! He found out about the importance of baptism and the Holy Spirit. Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to be part of God's family, he had to become a new person, just like a baby. Jesus said that unless he was born of the water and the Spirit, he would not be able to enter the kingdom of God. This is true for everyone today. We too must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and pray for the Holy Spirit to help us. This is the only way we can go to heaven.

BIBLE STORY

Introduction

[As you begin the Samaritan woman's story, bring a jug of water and small cups. With the students sitting in a circle, give each student a cup and pour a small amount of water in the cup.] Boys and girls, where do you think the water in your cup came from? [Wait for students to respond.] Today's story took place by a well. Who knows what a well was used for? Yes, people got water from wells. Back then, people, especially women, had to walk to the nearest well to haul up water to use. Sometimes, the nearest well was far away. What do we do nowadays if we need to use water? We just go to the kitchen or bathroom, turn on the faucet, and out comes water. However, it was much different in Jesus' time. Let's find out what happened by a

well called "Jacob's well," and how Jesus showed His love to a group of people that the Jews disliked.

Jesus Rests at a Well

When Jesus and His disciples were preaching the word of God, they traveled to many places. One time, they were on their way to Galilee and passed through the region of Samaria. This trip was a little different than the other journeys they had taken before. The disciples were worried about what might happen as they walked through this area because the Samaritans and the Jews did not like each other very much.

The walk was a long one and the sun was beating down on Jesus and His disciples. After a while, they came

to a well. They stopped to rest and drew some cool water from the well to drink. They were also feeling hungry so the disciples left in search of food while Jesus sat by the well.

The Samaritan Woman

Not long after the disciples had gone, Jesus heard some footsteps. He looked up and saw that it was a Samaritan woman. She was holding a large jar in her hands. She had come to draw some water. As the woman walked up to the well, she did not look at Jesus or talk to Him. She knew that the Samaritans and Jews did not get along. Jesus just sat there, watching her pull water up from the bottom of the well. Suddenly, He surprised the woman by talking to her.

“Will you give me a drink of water?” Jesus asked.

The woman did not know what to say. Why would a Jew ask her, a Samaritan, for some water?

“Why do you ask me for a drink when you know that I am from Samaria?” the woman asked.

The Living Water

Jesus looked at the woman and replied, “If you knew who was asking you for a drink, you would ask for living water and receive it.” The woman was confused upon hearing Jesus’ words.

“Sir,” the woman asked, “what do You mean when You say living water?” This living water that Jesus was offering referred to the Holy Spirit and salvation for eternal life.

Jesus explained to her, “Everyone who drinks water from this well will thirst again but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give to people will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

The woman was very happy to hear this.

She quickly asked Jesus, “Where can I get this living water? I want to drink it so that I don’t have to come back to this well to get water again.” The woman thought that Jesus could make her life easier. She did not understand that He was talking about spiritual food and water. So, Jesus began to talk to her about God. The woman listened carefully to His words. During this conversation, Jesus even told the woman about things that had happened to her in the past. He knew that she had had five husbands before. When she heard this, the Samaritan woman was surprised because Jesus had never met her before and yet knew all these things about her.

God Is Spirit

She said to Jesus, “You must be a prophet from God since You know these things about me.” Then she thought of a question to ask Jesus.

“Samaritans worship God on this mountain over here,” said the woman. “But Your people say we should worship in Jerusalem. Which is right?”

Jesus answered her, “It doesn’t matter where you worship God. It is how you worship that is important. A time is coming when everyone will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.” Boys and girls, what does it mean to worship in spirit and in truth? It means that we should worship God not only with our hearts, but also with our actions.

Jesus’ words sounded good to her but she was not sure if she should believe Him.

“I know that God is going to send a Savior,” said the woman. “When He comes, He will tell us everything.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the Savior.”

The Samaritan Woman Spreads the Message

When the woman heard Jesus say that He was the Savior, she left her jar at the well and quickly ran back to the village to tell her neighbors. Just as she was leaving, the disciples came back with the food. They wondered what Jesus was doing talking to a Samaritan, and what made her run away so fast.

When the woman arrived in the village, she said to her neighbors, “Come and see a Man who told me about God. He knows about everything I have done in the past. He must be the Christ, the Savior we have all been waiting for.”

Some of the people went immediately to the well because they believed, and some went to see if the woman was telling the truth. When they got to the well, they saw that there was indeed a Man sitting there with His followers. They began to ask Jesus many questions. After talking with Him for a while, they asked Jesus if He could stay longer. They wanted to hear more about God. The people in the town thanked the woman for telling them about Jesus.

They said to her, “Now we believe because we have heard the message for ourselves. Jesus is the Savior of the world.”

Talk About God to Everyone

Jesus talked to many people about God during the two days he stayed in that city because the woman had shared her excitement with her friends. But if Jesus had acted like the other Jews who refused to speak or even be near Samaritans, He would have missed the chance to spread God’s message to these people. By being friendly to a Samaritan woman and talking to her, Jesus was able to tell other Samaritans about God’s salvation. Boys and girls, think about the friends you have at school and in your neighborhood. There are still many people who don’t know about God and His amazing love for everyone of us. Think about the people you will meet in the weeks to come—share your experiences with God with them!

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. How was the relationship between the Samaritans and the Jews?** They didn't like each other very much.
- 2. Why did Jesus speak to a Samaritan when He knew that Samaritans and Jews did not like each other?** Jesus wanted to spread the good news to them as well. Jesus also set a good example for us to treat those whom others dislike with kindness.
- 3. What does the "living water" represent?** It represents the Holy Spirit and salvation for eternal life.
- 4. What did Jesus mean when He said people should worship in spirit and in truth?** He meant that people should know the truth in the Bible. The truth is God's word and God's teaching. God is a Spirit who can't be seen physically, therefore we need to worship Him in spirit with all our hearts and mind while praying to God.
- 5. Have you ever disliked someone so much that you didn't want to speak to him or her? What can you do to change that?** Ask God to help you to change your attitude and behavior and to give you a heart of love.
- 6. What does Jesus want you to do with His message of salvation?** God wants us to spread His good news by telling our friends that believing in Jesus is a blessing—not only will we have eternal life, we will also have a full life because we will be children of God.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Love one another; as I have loved you." (John 13:34b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Jesus offers living water for thirsty souls

Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of the water I shall give him will never thirst." How is this possible? Is there really a type of water that can make us never thirst again? [Pause for students to think.] The answer is "no." Here, Jesus is not talking about the kind of thirst we feel when we are dehydrated. Instead, He is referring to the kind of thirst we feel when we eagerly desire to understand the truth, which is the wisdom of God.

When a person is "thirsty" for the truth, he is always seeking to know what God wants him to do, pleasing God in everything he does. He is "spiritually thirsty." To him, the only way to quench his spiritual thirst is to follow the truth. But there is a problem... How can he always know what God wants him to do? How can he stay spiritually nourished and quenched? Well, he needs the "living water" that Jesus offers! Like Jesus said, He offers living water for thirsty souls. Whoever drinks of this water will be spiritually nourished and never thirst again! Of course, this "living water" is spiritual, too; it doesn't come from the well, and we don't drink it. What do you think the "living water" really is? [Let students answer.] Yes, it is the Holy Spirit!

How does the Holy Spirit quench our spiritual thirst? He does so by helping us understand the word of God. When we are spiritually thirsty, we feel a great desire to know and to do what is right in God's eyes. However, our wisdom is very limited. We cannot understand the wisdom of God unless we have a "spiritual helper." This is why Jesus offers to us the Holy Spirit—a personal Helper and Counselor who will teach us the wisdom of God. He will not leave us spiritually thirsty but give us courage, power, and understanding to follow the truth of God. Let me share a testimony with you!

I received the Holy Spirit in 2002 during the last prayer in the Spring Spiritual Convocation. At that time, I had already been praying for the Holy Spirit for a long time. However, I remember all I would do was to ask God repeatedly to give me the Holy Spirit—I never really thought about or told God why I wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. That year, I attended SSC in the summer where I learnt a lot more about the roles of the Holy Spirit. From then on, praying for the Holy Spirit never felt the same. Before, my prayers were always very soft. But since I now had a great desire for the Holy Spirit, I began to pray very loud every

time. I also had a lot more to say... I didn't just keep asking God for the Holy Spirit. Instead, I gave Him my reasons. As a 10-year-old girl, my prayer was very simple. I said, "God, I know You know that I had lied to my parents before. You must be very disappointed and I regret it so much. I'm really sorry. Lord, I really want to be a good Christian. I don't want to disappoint You again. I want to obey all Your commandments so that I can always feel close to You.

But I really, really want help. I need help to be a stronger Christian! God, please give me Your Holy Spirit. I know He will help me!" It was during this prayer that I received the Holy Spirit. Before that, I had prayed many times for the Holy Spirit but I didn't receive it. I realized that it was because I never prayed with a desire for a spiritual Helper. But when I did, God gave me the Holy Spirit. Thank God! May all the glory be unto Jesus' name. Amen.

2. Those who worship God must worship Him in Spirit and truth

Another thing we learned from our lesson today is that it doesn't matter where we worship God—it is how we worship that matters! Do you remember what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman about how we should worship God? [Let students answer.] Jesus said, "The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth." What does it mean to worship in spirit and in truth?

Here, Jesus is not saying that it is not important for us to come to church for worship. Instead, He is saying that if we worship in the right way, that is, in spirit and in truth, we automatically become a church. To worship in spirit and truth means to have the abidance of the Holy Spirit, who will guide us in a true worship according God's will. To worship in spirit also means to align our hearts with the Lord's Spirit as one. In our thoughts and our minds, we must have the right attitude and a mindset that is in

accordance with biblical teachings. In our actions, we must carry out the teachings of the Bible. That is true worship, which is more than just our physical presence in a physical church building.

Today, we see churches everywhere. They may look very beautiful inside and out, and have a very famous pastor and a large congregation. However, these things are not factors in the definition of a true church. God only abides with those who worship Him in spirit and truth; if a church doesn't preach and act upon the true message of God, it is not a church of God. Here at True Jesus Church, we receive the Holy Spirit of God. He empowers us to understand and to preach the complete set of the doctrines of salvation. We have received His baptism and Holy Spirit from the church, and we come together to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Thank God!

3. Everyone today has equal access to God through Jesus Christ

One of the most important messages that Jesus and the apostles preached is that everyone today has equal access to God through Jesus Christ. In other words, whoever believes in Jesus Christ can receive salvation as long as they follow God's commandments faithfully. By sacrificing His life for us on the cross, Jesus extended His saving grace to everyone. Whoever believes in Him and is baptized in His name can become God's chosen people regardless of their race or nationality. This is why Jesus commanded His disciples to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). He wants us to demonstrate love and share this good news with everyone, just as He did when He was on earth.

From our story today, we can see that Jesus used every opportunity He had to preach the good news to others. Even though Jesus was very tired from His journey, feeling both hungry and thirsty, He didn't just sit there and let the opportunity pass when He saw the Samaritan woman by the well. He knew that His purpose on earth was to bring salvation to everyone, so He chose to speak up rather than use the time to rest. Moreover, He demonstrated His own teaching to this Samaritan woman by talking to

her—someone who had been despised by the Jews her whole life! If Jesus was like all the other Jews who didn't want to have anything to do with the Samaritans, do you think anyone would still trust Him when He preached about God's plan to extend salvation to all nations? Of course not! But Jesus acted upon everything that He taught—He told us to love, so He loved us first and laid down His life for us.

Today, we are God's chosen people, and we all have the responsibility to preach the gospel. Even though we have many other responsibilities in this world, such as being a student, a parent, or an employee of a company, preaching is not something that we should neglect in our daily lives. If Jesus lived in our world today, He would use every opportunity He has to preach the word of God, just as He did back then. The question is, are we able to do the same today? Are we willing to tell people around us about God? Are we always acting upon the word of God so that we can preach the word of God through our actions? Let us learn from Jesus in this story and share the responsibility of preaching together!

ACTIVITY

1 Being Kind

Objective: To act out ways we can show kindness to others.

Materials

- Paper bags
- Popsicle sticks
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Any available scraps (black yarn for hair, real buttons for clothes, felt for fuzzy material, etc.)

Instructions

1. Let each student create simple puppets of themselves using the available materials. It may help if the teacher creates a sample prior to the lesson to serve as a model for the students.
2. Pair up the students and have each pair come up with a simple dialogue that illustrates the theme of kindness. Students can be divided into groups of three if necessary.
3. Give students time to practice, and then have each pair/group present their dialogue.

2 Spreading the Word

Objective: To practice different ways to tell others about God.

Materials

- The puppets that the students made in Activity 1

Instructions

1. Demonstrate to the students how they can use the puppets to let others know about Jesus.
2. Under the teacher's guidance, have students come up with a simple play, in a small group or as a class, based on the story of the Samaritan woman. The teacher should provide assistance as the students explore ways to spread the words of God.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. water
2. living
3. truth
4. Jews
5. neighbors
6. C
7. B
8. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 2—The Samaritan Woman

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God loves all people.

Lesson Objective: To encourage students to share their experiences of God with others.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(John 13:34b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blanks

neighbors Jews living water truth

1. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for some _____.
2. Jesus told the Samaritan woman about the _____ water.
3. Jesus said that we should worship God in spirit and in _____.
4. Samaritans and _____ were not good friends.
5. The woman told her _____ about Jesus so that they could be saved too.

Multiple Choice

6. _____: What was the Samaritan woman's reaction when she found out that Jesus knew her past life?
 - a. She was very angry.
 - b. She didn't want to talk to Jesus anymore.
 - c. She said to Jesus, "You must be a prophet from God."
7. _____: What was the living water that Jesus offered to the Samaritan woman?
 - a. Water from the well
 - b. The Holy Spirit and salvation for eternal life
 - c. None of the above

8. Create Your Own Bible Comic Strip!

Try to remember as many details as you can about the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, including how they met and their conversation. Then, retell the story through your drawings.

1

2

3

4