

The Woman at the Well

Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

Did You Know?

In today's Bible story, Jesus, tired and stopping to rest during the hottest part of the day, asked for a drink—a relatively simple request. However, the one of whom he made this request was a Samaritan woman. According to societal conventions in biblical times, there were two reasons Jesus should not have spoken to the Samaritan woman. First of all, a Jewish man did not initiate conversation with an unknown woman. Additionally, Jesus was a Jewish teacher. It was not considered appropriate for a Jewish teacher to speak with a woman in a public place. Secondly, Jews did not initiate conversation with Samaritans.

Samaria was the area of central Palestine located between Judea (in the south) and Galilee (in the north). The tension between the Jews and the Samaritans had a long history. In 722 BC, Assyria attacked Israel and took away many of the Israelites. Some of the Jews who were left behind married women from Assyria and Canaan. Over time, they built their own temple, selected their own priests, and followed their own interpretation of Mosaic Law. To use the terms *Jews* and *Samaritans* is somewhat misleading because the Samaritans had Jewish ancestors. They worshipped the same God. The Samaritan woman knew that the coming of a Messiah had been foretold. The Jews living in Judea in Jesus' day felt the Samaritans were not faithful to the true God of Israel since they did not worship in the temple at Jerusalem. For this reason, Samaritans were not liked or trusted.

Today's Bible story is one that boldly proclaims the inclusiveness of God's love. By choosing to speak to a Samaritan woman, Jesus challenged societal expectations. Jesus did more than have a conversation with the woman; he also offered her "living water." The Samaritan woman, despised and rejected by many, was a worthy recipient of God's grace. Jesus taught through his example and words that God's love is for everyone.

The living water that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman is a symbol for God's love and forgiveness. As you teach today's lesson, help the children to understand that just as water is necessary to keep our bodies healthy, God's love, the "living water," is necessary to keep our spiritual lives healthy. This "living water" is freely available to all and will never run out.

Bible Story

John 4:1-42

Anchor Point

We can follow
Jesus' example.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- Welcome
- Kids Stuff: A Drop for Your Well
- Exploration Station: Fill the Bucket

DIVE DEEPER:

- Bible Story Time
- Experience the Story: The Woman at the Well
- Look It Up!
- My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- Life Connection: Water
- Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Words
- Craft Activity: Ice Painting
- Spiritual Practice: Witness

WORSHIP:

- Gather, Sing, and Sign
- Praise and Reflect





JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



- Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.
 - Play “The People Who Knew Jesus” and greet each child as they arrive.
 - Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: A DROP FOR YOUR WELL

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 27-28, 3 oz. bath cups, glue sticks, pencils, scissors

- Distribute A Drop for Your Well and supplies.
- Encourage children to assemble the well.
- Invite them to write on the water droplet one way they can share God’s love. Then put the water droplet in the well.



SAY: In the Bible story today, Jesus offered living water to a Samaritan woman.

EXPLORATION STATION: FILL THE BUCKET

Supplies: four buckets, paper towels, two large sponges, water



- Locate an open area outside to play this game. Fill two buckets with water and place at one end of the area. Place two empty buckets at the other end of the room.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, a woman went to a well to fill her bucket with water. Let’s see if we can fill our buckets in a water-relay game.

- Arrange children into two teams. Place each team in two lines near empty buckets.
- Give each team a sponge.
- Play the game, two teams competing against the other: The first player of each team will run to the end of the room, dip sponge into the bucket of water, and soak up as much water as possible. Then the player with sponge will run back to the starting point and squeeze it out into the empty bucket. The player then will hand the sponge to the next person in line and go to the back of the line. The next team member takes a turn. Continue the relay until one team has filled the empty bucket.



Be prepared to mop up excess water from the floor to prevent accidents. Even better, hold the relay outside.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 12, then watch video.

ASK: Who does the woman meet at the well? What kind of water does Jesus offer the Samaritan woman? What did the woman do after she met Jesus?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 12, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles John 4:1-42, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: Another place in the Gospel of John speaks about living water. Let's look it up.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles John 7:38.

ASK: What do you think Jesus means by "living water"?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Historically, it was not common for Jews and Samaritans to speak to each other. But in our story, Jesus crossed boundaries to share God's love.

ASK: How can you share and show God's love to everyone?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WATER

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: Water is important, and we can't live without it. Let's learn more about water.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Water.



LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: ARMENIAN WORDS

SAY: In the video, the Deep Blue Kids are learning a few Armenian words. Let's learn some together.

- Invite the children to repeat the words after you.

Shun (shoon)—Dog

Barev—Hello

Jur—Water

Merci—Thank you

CRAFT ACTIVITY: ICE PAINTING

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 78, food coloring, ice-cube tray, smocks, table coverings, water, wooden craft sticks

 Photocopy Ice Painting, one for each child. Protect the work area. Make the ice paint prior to the lesson.

- Follow the directions to make the ice paint:

Pour water evenly into the ice-cube tray.

Add a few drops of food coloring into ice-cube spaces and mix well. Use as many colors as you prefer.

Place craft sticks into each individual ice cube square.

Let the cubes freeze (several hours or overnight).

Pull on the craft sticks to remove the ice paint from the tray.

SAY: Today we will paint with ice. As the ice melts, color will appear on your page.

- Distribute the ice-painting coloring page.
- Let children paint the picture.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: WITNESS

ASK: What does the word *witness* mean?

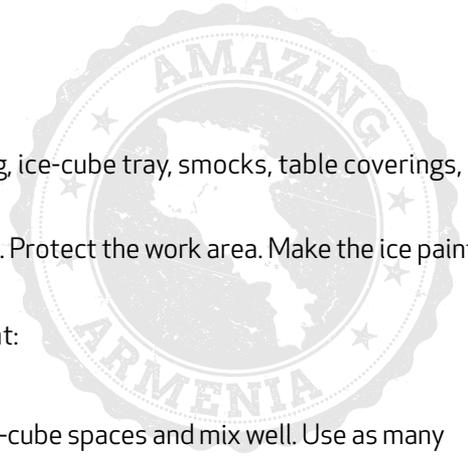
SAY: The Samaritan woman become a witness for her faith. She was empowered by Jesus' message of living water, and shared her faith with her friends and family. She witnessed God's love and shared it with others.

ASK: How can you be a witness of faith and share God's love with others?

SAY: This week, be a witness and share God's love with one person.



The paint will melt quickly. You may wish to make extra ice paint.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “The People Who Knew Jesus” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope of poster-piece footprints; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia and envelope of poster-piece footprints.

SAY: Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: We are learning about the people Jesus met.

ASK: Who did Jesus meet in our story today?

- Display poster-piece footprints. Invite a volunteer to locate the figure of The Samaritan Woman and attach it to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

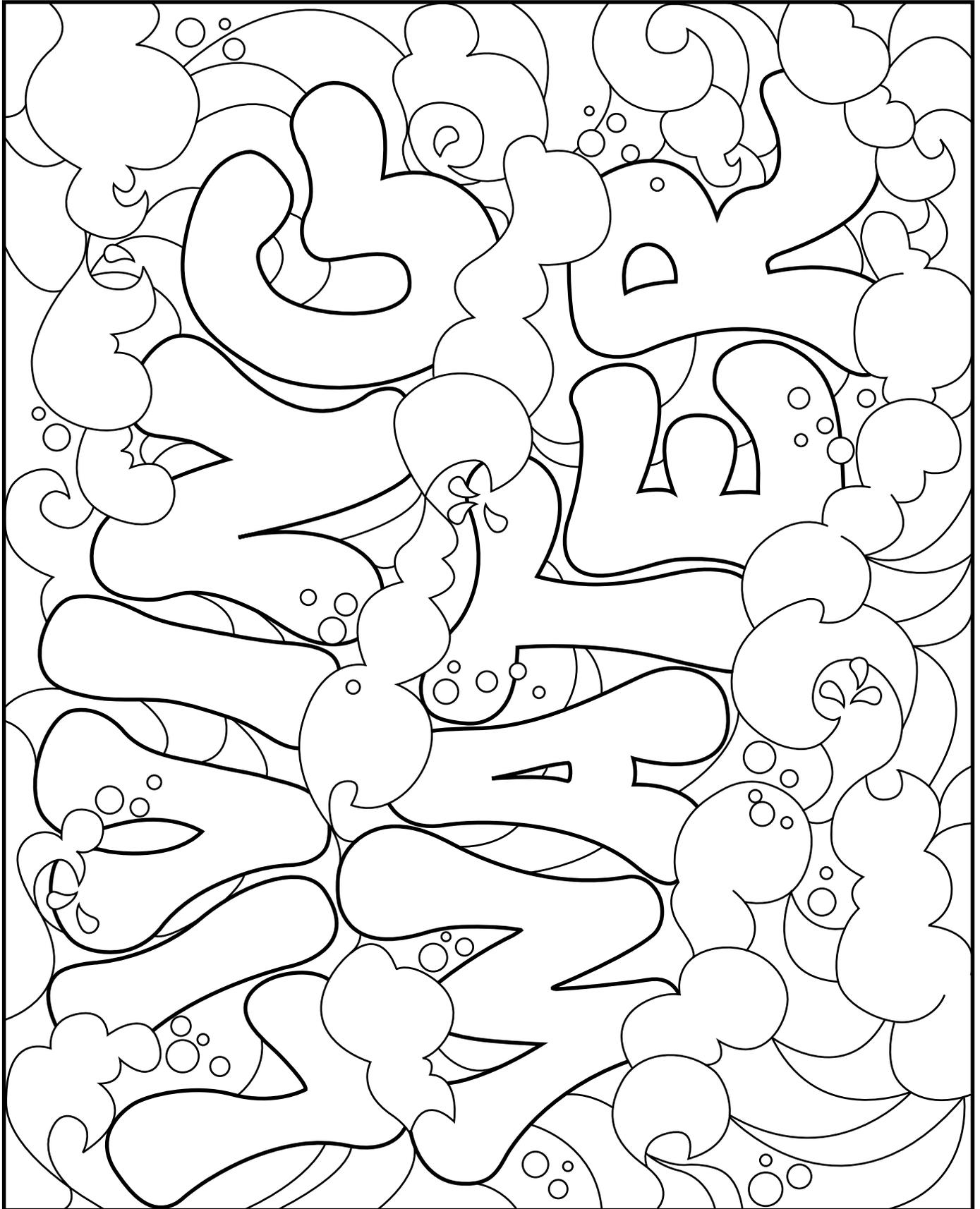
SAY: Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus’ example.

ASK: How can you live by Jesus’ example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us live by the example of Jesus, to have faith in what you provide and to share our faith with others. Amen.

Craft Activity: Ice Painting



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