

Lesson Plan

July 12th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Broken

Bible Story: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42)

Theme Verse: "Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: Today we get to teach kids that they need God's forgiveness. Jesus offered a Samaritan woman "living water," which was forgiveness and a new relationship with God. (Read John 4:10,13-14.) Jesus came to offer us living water too because God desires to have a relationship with us. Kids can know we need God's forgiveness, and He provides that forgiveness through Jesus.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the incredible forgiveness He offers to each of us.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. It is great to see you all today! Turn to someone next to you and give that person a high five. Then say, "I am glad you are here!" (Allow response.) This month our Theme is SOS. SOS is a way of saying, "I need help!" Say, "I need

help!" (I need help!) We all need help sometimes. And today, we are going to learn that the biggest help we need is God's help. Ask, "Why?" (Why?) I am so glad you asked!

We need God's help because of our sin—when we choose to do what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. Sin is bad news because it messes up our friendship with God. The Bible tells us that we are all broken because of our sin, but the good news is that God helps us and rescues us when we ask Him. Everybody say, "SOS!" (SOS!) Awesome! We are going to learn more about how God helps us today. Are you ready? Say, "I am ready!" (I am ready!)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Corner Game

What You Say: We're going to play a game called "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John". Does anyone know where we know these names from? (The Bible, The Gospels). This game is going to be like a game called Four Corners. Does everyone know this game?

For this game I need a volunteer to be It. It will stand in the middle between all the Gospel names. They will close their eyes and count to 10. Then everyone else will quietly go to one of the Gospel names. The person that is It will say, "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I pick. . ." and then choose one of the Gospel names. Any kids standing near the sign of the name picked will move to stand in the middle with It. The game will continue until only one kid is left at a Gospel name. That kid then becomes It for the next round.

Leader Tip: Play however many rounds as time allows.

What You Say: Great job everyone! That game was so fun and what a great way for us to memorize the books of the Gospel.

Great job, everyone! Today we get to learn about a story in the Bible from the book of John. John is the last book of the Gospels. Our Bible story is going to teach us about how we need Someone to come and rescue us. We need rescued because of sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. Sin breaks our relationship with God, and we need to be rescued. Let me hear you say, "SOS!" (SOS!) We need Someone to rescue us from sin and brokenness, and that is the good news we get to talk about today.

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: It is time for SOS: Surviving Out at Sea! This is a competition show where contestants leave as "Conquerors" or "Coconuts." Say, "Conquerors!" (Conquerors!) Say, "Coconuts!" (Coconuts!) To get the show started, say, "SOS!" (SOS!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Slippery sabotage is not the way to win a competition. But Lilly was so kind to forgive Jim. And they both got to enjoy that coconut cake together because of Lilly's kindness and forgiveness. It is a great reminder that we also need forgiveness. While we may not sabotage someone to win a challenge, we all make wrong choices, and that is called sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. The bad news is that our sin separates us from God.

But there is good news! Say, "Good news!" (Good news!) God loves us so much that He forgives us even when we sin. When we confess our sin to God and ask Him to forgive us, He always says yes! Let me hear you say, "I need God's forgiveness!" (I need God's forgiveness!) When God forgives us, we get to enjoy a relationship with Him—which is even better than coconut cake!

Worship

What You Say: Come up front and worship with me this morning!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to John 4:1-42.) We are going to learn about how God helps us. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. The Bible shows us who God is and what He is like. It shows us how God is working in the world He has made. The Bible helps us understand that we need help. Say, "SOS!" (SOS!) We need God's forgiveness. No matter how good we try to be, we do not obey God perfectly. We need Him to help us. God helped us by sending His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue us from our sin and disobedience. Count down with me and say, "Go!" to get our Bible story started. Ready? 3-2-1! Go!

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: Jesus stopped at a well in the middle of the day. He was tired and thirsty. Jesus was what? (Tired and thirsty!) A Samaritan (suh MEHR ih tuhn) woman came to the well to get water. When Jesus asked the woman to get Him a drink of water from the well, she was surprised. Why was this surprising? Back then, Jews and Samaritans did not get along and men did not usually speak to women they did not know. But Jesus did. He told the Samaritan woman that if she knew who He really was, she would ask Him for living water.

Living water was not water from a well; it was something much greater. Jesus was offering her forgiveness, a fresh start, and a relationship with God. Living water is a relationship with God and His help to live the way He created us to live. The same way she needed God's forgiveness, we need God's forgiveness too. Say, "I need God's forgiveness!" (I need God's forgiveness!)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 2) The Samaritan woman was broken because of her sin. She had chosen to follow her own way instead of God's way. We all sin, and sin breaks our relationship with God, relationships with each other, and even the way we think about ourselves. In today's Bible story, Jesus knew the woman's past, and He knew the wrong choices she had made.

But even if she had made a lot of good and right choices, would she still have been broken? If we make the right choices, do we still need God? Let me hear you say, "Yes!" (Yes!) Even when we try our best to do what is right, we still fail sometimes. We all sin. Whether by lying, being unkind, or choosing our own way instead of God's, we all make wrong choices. The Samaritan woman was searching for something more, and so are we. What we need most is God's forgiveness. What do we need? (God's forgiveness!)

(Circle 3) The woman felt hopeless until she met Jesus. Her sin had wrecked her life, her friendships, and her relationship with God. Have you ever felt that way? Jesus came to help her

discover that she could have a relationship with God. He talked to her with kindness and respect. Jesus helped her see that He was the Savior—the One who could rescue her from sin, heal her brokenness, and make her whole again.

The same is true for us. Jesus came to rescue us by dying on the cross and taking the punishment we deserve for our sins. But Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again and now offers us living water—a new life with Him! He is more powerful than sin and death. When we turn from our sin to trust and follow Jesus, God gives us what we need most—His forgiveness. What a wonderful gift! Say, “I need God’s forgiveness!” (I need God’s forgiveness!)

(Circle 1) From the very beginning, God created all people for a relationship with Him. When the first people sinned, it broke their relationship with God and brought brokenness into God’s perfect world. But God’s amazing forgiveness rescues us from brokenness. One day Jesus will return and make everything new, removing sin and brokenness forever! Until then, we can enjoy a relationship with God through the forgiveness we have by trusting and follow Jesus. The living water Jesus gives fills our lives with love and joy! We get to have a close relationship with God where we talk with Him, trust Him, and live in ways that show we love Him.

It does not matter if we “feel” like we are broken because of sin or if we make a lot of good choices and do the right thing. We are all broken and need God’s forgiveness. God knows this, and He rescues us through Jesus. If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, talk with me or your Small Group Leader. You do not have to stay in brokenness. You can receive the living water Jesus offers.

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, (Start with fists at your shoulders. Bring your fists down in front of you, stopping at your waist.)
so that we may receive mercy and find grace (Pull your fists toward you.)
to help us in time of need. (Clasp your hands in front of your chest.)
Hebrews 4:16 (Hold your hands out like a book.)

What You Say: We are broken because of our sin. But there is good news! Jesus came into the world to rescue us from our sin and heal our brokenness because He loves us so much. Our Theme verse helps us remember that we can have a relationship with God when we trust in Jesus. Let’s learn our Theme verse together.

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: God gives us mercy, which means He does not punish us for sin even though we deserve it. God also gives us grace, which is His undeserved love. God gives us these when He forgives us. Say, “I need God’s forgiveness!” (I need God’s forgiveness!) God rescues us from brokenness and forgives our sin, even though we have not done anything to deserve it! Now we can approach God with confidence knowing that He loves us, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Today we learned that we are broken, which means we all sin by making wrong choices. That sin breaks our relationship with God. We need God’s forgiveness. Like the woman at the well, Jesus knows everything about us—even the wrong choices we make—and He still loves us. It doesn’t matter who we are or what we have done because God’s love does not get bigger or smaller based on what we do. He always fully and totally loves us! This is why Jesus offers us something amazing—living water, which means a new life with Him that never runs dry. That is good news! Say, “Good news!” (Good news!)

If you have ever felt like you have made wrong choices or wondered if God still loves you, remember: He does! If you ever feel like you do not need God’s forgiveness, remember that we all do. Say, “I need God’s forgiveness!” (I need God’s forgiveness!) Let’s take a moment to talk with God and thank Him for His forgiveness. Pray with me in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for loving us even though we have sinned. We know we are broken, and we need Your forgiveness. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us and give us living water. Help us turn away from sin and follow You and what You say is best. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Let's dive in and talk about what we have learned today. I cannot wait to hear your thoughts!

1. What is something that is easy to break, but hard to fix? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)
2. How is an empty water bottle a good example of something that can look fine on the outside but is missing something on the inside? (Allow answers and share your own answer.) We can be like an empty water bottle. We might feel like we look okay and do good things on the outside, but we need something else in our lives. How does God help us? (God forgives us through Jesus and fills us with His love until we overflow.)
3. The Bible tells us that we are broken by our sin, but God offers forgiveness through Jesus. Let's open our Bibles to **John 4:13–14** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Jesus was not just talking about regular water. He was talking about something much better—living water. That means a new life with God, where He fills our hearts with His love and forgiveness. When we believe in Jesus, He gives us what we need most. What do you think Jesus meant when said the living water meant “never get thirsty again”? (Jesus fully satisfies our need for forgiveness and new life. When we trust in Jesus, we can let go of the idea that we must try hard to do and say all the right things. We do not have to earn God's forgiveness because Jesus has already done the work on our behalf!)
4. What changes in our lives when we are forgiven by God? (We have joy and hope. We are filled with God's love. We know we can talk with God and know He is always with us.) If you have questions about following Jesus, let me know and we can talk more!
5. The Bible tells us that even though we are broken, God offers us forgiveness and new life through Jesus. God's rescue plan is for everyone because we all need help. Say, “SOS!” (SOS!) What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Water Drop Mobile

What To Do: Today we are going to be making a craft that will remind us of our Bible story from today. If you look at the two pieces you got, one says “Jesus gives living water” and the other says “I need Jesus when. . .”. We are going to decorate these and then glue or tape them together so they are front and back. (Allow time.)

Now we are going to use a hole punch to put a hole at the top of the water drop so we can attach a piece of string. This is so you can hang it somewhere that you can see at home and remember our Bible story from today.

Loud And Clear: In our story, Jesus told the woman at the well that He could give her living water. That means forgiveness and new life with Him. Jesus fills us with what we need most—His love that never runs out!

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that we are broken and need God's forgiveness. God offers us forgiveness through Jesus.

Loud And Clear: The Samaritan woman came to get water at the well, but Jesus offered her something even better—living water! Jesus has come to offer you and me that same gift—forgiveness from our sin and life with Him now and forever. God loves us so much, and He is faithful to forgive our sin and welcome us into new life with Him.

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for knowing everything about us—even the broken parts—and still loving us. We know we are broken and need Your forgiveness. Thank You for sending Jesus to give us living water—forgiveness that makes the way for us to have a relationship with God and leads us to love You. Help us to follow You and ask for help when we need it. Amen.

Dismissal:

Community Big Kids

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.