

An illustration depicting Jesus and a Samaritan woman. Jesus, on the right, has a long dark beard and is wearing a light blue robe with a red sash. He is gesturing with his right hand towards the woman. The woman, on the left, wears a pink headscarf and a blue robe. She is carrying a large, brown, rounded water jar on her head, which is secured with a thick, braided rope. The background shows a green landscape with rolling hills, a few simple stone buildings, and a large rock formation. The sky is a soft, hazy blue.

UNIT 21 | SESSION 5

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

JOHN 4

KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 3:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus pointed out the Samaritan woman's sin so that she could believe He is the Messiah. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we might turn away from it and turn to Jesus to be saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit and eternal life.

STORY POINT: Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He is the Messiah.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well reveals the omniscience of Christ and His kindness toward sinners. Just as Jesus pointed out the woman's sin, so, too, does the Holy Spirit reveal our sin to us today. The same kindness Jesus showed to the Samaritan woman is extended to those who trust in Him today.

Jesus chose to travel through Samaria on His route to Galilee. Jesus knew His time to suffer and die for sinners had not yet come and sought to avoid unnecessary confrontation with the Jews. Though most Jews avoided this path through Samaria, Jesus knew there were people in this region who needed forgiveness from sin.

Clashing against social norms of the day, such as a Jew addressing a Samaritan, Jesus asked the woman for water. He explained that if she knew the gift of God and recognized who He was, she would ask for and receive His gift of living water. Jesus said the water from the physical well in front of them wouldn't be able to truly satisfy the thirsty, but those who drink His living water would never be thirsty again.

The woman wanted this living water. She wanted to never thirst again, and she desired to avoid constant trips to the well. Jesus' words had piqued her curiosity. But Jesus knew she had a greater need than she realized: forgiveness of sin.

Jesus knew the sins of the woman and, by declaring Himself the Messiah, invited her to embrace Him as Savior. The glory of Jesus impacted the woman and led her to proclaim His power to the townspeople that day and invite others to consider if He was indeed the promised Messiah.

Pray that the Lord will reveal His own power to the boys and girls who will hear this story. Thank Him for the kindness and mercy He shows while we are still sinners and for His willingness to bring us into His family by faith.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "What Does Not Belong?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- empty 2-L bottle
- large pitcher of water
- large bowl

Session Starter (Option 2)

- small dry erase boards
- dry erase markers
- index cards



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "Jesus and the Samaritan Woman" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Small Group Map Set (optional)

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 21, Session 5" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "Central Asia Map" printable
- beanbag

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "No Sin in Him (1 John 3:5)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- small, white cups, 1 per kid
- wooden craft sticks, 2 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- index cards
- magnet tape
- dowel or small stick
- string
- metal paper clips
- buckets, 2

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible story coloring page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever been so thirsty you could hardly wait for a drink? What kind of drink do you like to have when you are most thirsty?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Does Not Belong?” on the activity page.

SAY “Today we will learn about when Jesus continued His earthy ministry by traveling through Samaria. While He was there, Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He is the Messiah.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: FILL IT UP!

Before this activity, poke a small hole in an empty 2-liter bottle. Ask the kids how much water they think it will take to fill up the bottle. With the bottle over a large, empty bowl, begin pouring a pitcher of water into to 2-liter bottle. Explain that the bottle will never be full, because the water will continue leaking out the hole in the bottom.

SAY “Today we will learn about a woman who was trying to fill her life with things she thought would satisfy her, but like how our container kept needing more water, she could never get enough. When she met Jesus, everything changed. **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.** He alone can satisfy and give us everlasting life.”

OPTION 2: WATER DRAWING

Before the session, write a simple object relating to water on each notecard (one per kid). Some ideas include: water slide, fish, ocean, boat, fishing net, water bottle, rain, etc. Form kids into teams of about 3-4. Distribute a small dry erase board, marker, and a few notecards to each team. Ask each team to select one kid to be the first artist. When you say, Go! challenge the artist in each group to select a notecard from the pile, read what is written on the notecard, and draw that object on the dry erase board. Challenge the rest of the team to guess what the artist drew on the board. Allow each team 30 seconds to guess. If a team guesses correctly, they earn one point. Repeat with a different artist. Play until each kid who wants to draw has had a turn. The team with the most points at the end of the activity wins.

SAY “Did anyone catch what all those items had in common? [Allow responses.] Today we will see that Jesus met a woman who was getting water from a well. **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH,** the One who gives eternal life.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hello, everyone! I am so glad you’re here! My name is [your name], and today I get to share a true story from God’s Word with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and place it in your lap? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.]

Today we will learn about when Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman. The Samaritans and Jews did not normally talk to each other, but Jesus saw this woman, her sin, and her need for forgiveness.

JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH. I cannot wait to share with you how the woman responded to this good news. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ As we look at a story from the Bible together, we like to think about a big picture question and answer to help us focus on an important truth from God’s Word. Do you remember what our big picture question is? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **Did Jesus ever sin?** What is the answer to that question? [Allow responses.] **No, Jesus never sinned.** Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless life so that He could take the punishment our sin deserves and give us eternal life. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we can turn away from it and trust Jesus as our Savior. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ A few weeks ago, we learned that Jesus performed His first miracle and showed His glory. Then, we learned how Jesus knew the people’s sin and cleaned out the temple. Next, we learned that Jesus taught Nicodemus that people must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. Last week, we saw how John pointed people to follow Jesus as the Messiah. Today, we will see how **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.** ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your John 4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

“While **Jesus** was traveling through Samaria, He **became very tired and sat down at a well. At noon, a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus asked her for a drink.**

She replied, “How is it that you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink?” She asked this question because Jews and Samaritans normally didn’t talk to each other.

Jesus answered, “If you knew who I was, you would be asking me for living water.”

The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket, and this well is deep. Where would you get this living water from?”

“Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again,” Jesus said. “But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I give him will become like a fountain inside of him for eternal life.”

The woman said, “Please give me this water, sir, so that I won’t have to come here and drink water anymore.”

“Go call your husband,” Jesus told her, “and come back here.”

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus said, “You are correct—you don’t have a husband. You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now is not your husband.”

“I see that you are a prophet,” the woman replied. Maybe this prophet could explain something to her. **She said, “The Samaritans worship here on a mountain, but the Jews say we need to worship at the temple in Jerusalem.”**

Jesus told her, “Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship God in Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said to Him, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”

The woman left her water jar, went into town, and told everyone, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could he be the Messiah?”

The people left the town and made their way to Jesus. **Many believed that Jesus**

STORYTELLING TIPS

In Character: Ask a female volunteer to dress up and tell the story as the Samaritan woman.

Trace on a Map: Display the New Testament Israel Map and point out how Samaria sits between other places Jesus visited like Galilee and Judea.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

was the Messiah, and they asked Him to stay with them. They said, “We have heard for ourselves and know that Jesus really is the Savior of the world.

Christ Connection: Jesus pointed out the Samaritan woman’s sin so that she could believe He is the Messiah. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we might turn away from it and turn to Jesus to be saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit and eternal life. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ As Jesus continued His earthly ministry, He traveled through Samaria and stopped at a well to rest. While He was there a Samaritan woman came to the well, and Jesus asked her for a drink. She was confused because Jews did not normally speak to Samaritans. How did Jesus respond to her? [Allow responses.] Jesus told the woman that if she really knew who He was, she would be asking Him for living water. Again, the woman was confused. Jesus then pointed out the sin in her life so that she would believe that He is the Messiah. When she heard that Jesus knew all about her life, she decided that He must be a prophet. She told Jesus that she was waiting for the Messiah to come and explain everything to her. What did Jesus say? [Allow responses.] **JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.** Amazed, the woman left her jar of water at the well and ran and told everyone she could about Jesus.

Like the woman, we must decide whether we will follow Jesus as the Messiah and trust Him to save us from our sins. Next, if we have trusted Jesus as Savior, we must go and tell everyone we know that Jesus came to rescue people from their sins. Jesus pointed out the Samaritan woman’s sin so that she could believe He is the Messiah. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we might turn away from it and turn to Jesus to be saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit and eternal life. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Jesus invites us, just like He invited the Samaritan woman, to trust Him as Messiah. If you have not trusted Jesus as Savior and have questions about following Jesus, I would like to share more with you. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 21, Session 5” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why does Jesus ask us to pray, even though He knows everything?
2. When the Holy Spirit helps us recognize that we have sinned, that is a good thing. Then we can ask for forgiveness. What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps you know you sinned?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show the “Central Asia Map.” Explain to kids that a missionary named Olivia was praying for a friend she calls “Little S” in Central Asia. Little S had many questions for Olivia. They met regularly so Olivia could teach Little S about Jesus. At first, Little S seemed very interested, but soon she began experimenting with rituals and traditions from another religion. Olivia began to pray for Little S every Thursday. At the same time, unknown to Olivia, Little S was secretly meeting with another friend named Diana to read the Bible. One day, Diana told Little S, “I believe Jesus is Lord. Jesus is the Son of God.” From that moment, Diana and Little S were convinced Jesus is the Son of God and they wanted to be baptized.

Olivia was happy that Diana and Little S had a Bible in their own language since it helped her tell them the good news about Jesus.

Lead kids to take turns tossing a beanbag onto the map. Allow each child to lead a prayer for missionaries and people in that country of Central Asia. Encourage kids to pray that more people in each country will want to learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 John 3:5 together.

SAY “Jesus is the perfect, sinless sacrifice sent to save people from sin. Let’s continue memorizing our key passage that reminds us of this good news.”

Invite kids to stand around the room. When the music begins to play, encourage kids to walk, skip, hop, etc. around the room. When the music stops, challenge them to freeze where they are and say the key passage aloud, together. For an added challenge, direct kids to say one word from the key passage each time the music stops until they have said the entire verse.

Lead kids to sing “No Sin in Him (1 John 3:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus as the Messiah. Help us see our sin, turn from it, and trust in Jesus for salvation. Help us to share the good news of salvation with others. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 4. Explain that some of the same events from Jesus' ministry are recorded in several Gospels while other times an event is only recorded in one Gospel, such as the story of the Samaritan woman that we learned about today.

Consider pointing out the location of Samaria (F4) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 4:7-9, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ Samaritans and Jews usually didn't speak to each other, and during the time our story took place men would not usually speak to women, so the fact that Jesus interacted with the Samaritan woman was surprising. Jesus looked at her with love and spoke to her, telling her that He was the Messiah she was waiting for. Jesus came for all people from every nation and every background. Throughout Jesus' ministry, we see Him interacting with people who were often overlooked, forgotten, or even hated. Jesus went to those people because He loves them. We should go to all people, even the people who are different from us or the people who are overlooked. Followers of Jesus should love people the way He loves them and share the good news that Jesus came to save them. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What does this story tell us about Jesus? ”

No matter how different people are from each other, every person has the same problem. That problem is sin. Through this story we learned that Jesus went to Samaria, a place which most Jewish people would have probably avoided, to share the good news that He had come as the Savior of the world. Through this story today, we see Jesus' care and compassion for all people.

| **SAY** “ What is living water? ”

Living water is the satisfaction, joy, and happiness that we find only in Jesus. We can try to make ourselves happy by filling our lives with many things, but we can only find true delight in trusting and following Him.

| **SAY** “ How can you share Jesus with others? ”

One of the best ways to share Jesus with others is to tell them what Jesus has done in your life. If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, tell them how you realized that you needed to turn from your sin and turn to Jesus for salvation. Then, once you have shared, pray that the Holy Spirit will help them understand their need to be saved.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: AT THE WELL

Before the session, write John 4:14 on small paper rectangles, one per kid. Invite kids to sit around tables. Distribute one cup, 2 craft sticks, and a paper rectangle to each kid. Place crayons and tape in the center of each table. Instruct kids to use crayons to draw stones around the outside of the cup and color the paper rectangle. Then, demonstrate how to tape two craft sticks on the left and right sides inside of the paper cup. Assist kids in securing their craft sticks to their cups. Next, challenge kids to fold the rectangular paper in half and place on top of the wooden craft sticks, creating a “roof” for the well. Secure the roof with tape.

SAY “ JESUS TOLD THE SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH while speaking to her at the well. We can worship Jesus as Messiah and then go and share the good news of Jesus, just as the Samaritan woman did. ”

OPTION 2: CATCH A BOOK

Before this activity, write the names of each of the books of the Bible on index cards. Stick a magnet to the top of each card. Prepare several “fishing rods” by tying a piece of string on a dowel rod and securing a paper clip on the end. Spread several cards on the floor. Invite kids to line up in single file. Give the rod to the first kid in line. Challenge her to use the rod to catch a book of the Bible. Once she catches one, direct her to pull it up and assist her in reading which book she caught. Then challenge her to put the card into the Old Testament or New Testament bucket.

SAY “ It is important to know how the Bible is organized so that you can study God’s Word on your own. I hope you will continue to learn more about the Bible on your own, and we will continue to practice when we are together. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.