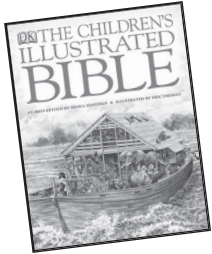


Third Sunday in Lent



The Children's Illustrated Bible
pages 232–233

Jesus sat by Jacob's well. He asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. The woman said, "Why do you, a Jew, ask something of me, a Samaritan?" Jesus said, "If you knew who I am, you would ask for living water. Well water makes you thirsty again, but if you drink the water I give, you will never be thirsty again." The woman said, "Give me this water, so I will never be thirsty! You are the Messiah we've been waiting for." Jesus said, "I am the Messiah." And he shared his cup of water with her. The woman ran to the townspeople, and the Samaritans followed her to the well. They invited Jesus to stay in Samaria, and many more believed in him.

—John 4:5–42 adapted

God, you are my God! My soul thirsts for you like being in a dry land with no water.

—Psalm 63:1 adapted

We know how dearly God loves us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with love.—Romans 5:1–11 adapted

☐ Jesus Offers Living Water

Share the story of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well from John 4:5–42. Although this story isn't in *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, show kids a water bottle on pages 232 and 233, and Samaria on the map on pages 180–181.

Have kids choose a partner. One will be Jesus, the other will be the woman at the well. Give both a cup of water. The woman has a cup labeled "well water" and Jesus' cup is labeled "living water." Tell kids to dramatize the actions with their partner while you read the scripture. Encourage kids to listen so they can share their water at the right time. Discuss:

1. Was it surprising that Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for water? (Yes, Jews avoided contact with Samaritans because they were considered outsiders in their beliefs and customs. A social custom of that time was that Jewish men didn't talk with women.)
2. What was the "living water"? (Jesus was! Jesus' truth and love is as important to our survival as water.)
3. What did the woman do after Jesus shared the "living water" with her?
4. How will you share the good news of Jesus?



☐ Water Prayers

Jesus promised the Samaritan woman living water that would refresh her and make her life new. Do you know someone you would like to share Jesus' refreshing "living water" with? Decorate a container to look like a water well. Give kids blue paper slips, shaped like water drops. Kids line up relay style in two lines. Place the "well" equidistant from both. When you say "GO," kids write someone or something they wish to pray "living water" for (endangered animals, a sick friend). One at a time, they run to the well and drop their prayer request in. Back in line, they may write another request and get ready to run again.

☐ Bubblin' Over

Show kids a glass jar (filled with one-third cup of vinegar), and discuss the Samaritan woman going about her usual day, walking to the well to get water. Nothing unusual was happening, just like this "plain water" in the jar. But when she met Jesus and he told her about "living water," she was bubbling over with joy (pour one tablespoon of baking soda in the jar and watch it bubble up).

1. Have you ever felt like you were bubbling over with joy? When? What happened?
2. Can you think of how Jesus may have been part of the joy you felt?

Adapted from *The Children's Worker's Encyclopedia of Bible-Teaching Ideas, New Testament*, page 80.



If you drink the water that I give, you will never be thirsty again.

—John 4:13 adapted

A Well of Blessings

Jesus brings living water to each of us. Write your blessings on the rocks of this well.

light living water
shepherd lamb king
father seed
child dove life
word slave servant
hen son friend

Jesus' Words

Jesus uses a lot of words to explain what he and God are like. Circle all the words you know Jesus used. Can you find the scriptures where these words are used?
