

Lesson Plan

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.”...Then the **WOMAN LEFT HER WATER JAR**, went into town, and told the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

JOHN 4:13-14, 28-29

Whether you are teaching this lesson to your own children or to a Sunday school class, ask God to help you communicate clearly. What are the children’s daily lives like? Have they heard Bible stories before?

Prepare

In preparation, you may want to read:
Practical Tips for Teaching Children
(Click box to open link online.)

Read John 4:1-41. You will be teaching about the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at a well. Ask God to open your heart to the truths in this passage. Imagine the life of this woman who was shunned by others. She did not go to the well with a group of women, but alone. And then...she met the One who knew all!

In this lesson you will help children understand that like the woman who “left her water jar,” we all have turning points in our lives. For younger

ones, a turning point may be as simple as, “Do I obey Mom and Dad.” But for fifth graders, it may be something like, “Do I cheat on a test,” or “Will I ignore that person in class like everyone else?” Use your judgment as you guide this conversation.

Pray

- ▶ That the Holy Spirit will help you express spiritual truths to young hearts.
- ▶ That each child will understand the wonderful change Jesus Christ can make in their own life.
- ▶ That each child will grasp the life-change Jesus can make in someone else’s life.
- ▶ That the children will realize no one is too young to tell others about Jesus.

Learn Together

This week is special because we’re having the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer. We’ll learn about some wonderful ways Arkansas Baptist ministries are making a difference. But first, let’s find out why this week’s offering is named Dixie Jackson.

Who Is Dixie Jackson?

Say something like, “About 100 years ago there was a woman named Dixie Jackson who lived in the small town of Dardanelle, Arkansas. (Point to the town of Dardanelle on an Arkansas map.) Learn more online about Dixie Jackson by clicking her name in the box above. You may also want to show a picture of Dixie Jackson to the children. There is one on the next page.

Mrs. Jackson loved Jesus very much. She wanted everyone to know about Him. She was



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also very happy about the wonderful things God was doing through Arkansas Baptist Missions. She prayed that God would bless and guide them, and she asked Baptists all around our state to pray for them, too.

Today the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering is named after this faithful woman.

This year's offering focuses on four important ministries in our state: Christian Women's Job Corps, Connect Missions Weekend, Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief, and Arkansas Prison Initiative. (You can learn more about each of these in the Dixie Jackson videos found at absc.org/dj.)

No matter your age, you can be a part of these Arkansas Baptist ministries through your prayers and giving what you can. These ministries help people learn about Jesus and come to turning points in their lives.

When a Samaritan woman met Jesus by a well, she came to a turning point. Let's read about this in the Bible.

Read John 4:1–41 and then answer these questions:

If you are teaching older children, you may want to ask several of them to read portions of this passage.

For younger children, concentrate on John 4:14, 28–29.

1. Jesus was sitting beside a well at a time when Jews did not like to be around Samaritans. That's when He saw a woman from Samaria coming to draw water. She came alone. And that was strange because women then usually came in groups to collect water. According to verse 9, why was the woman surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink? (He was Jewish and Jews did not associate with Samaritans.)
2. Our bodies need physical water to survive. What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman? (living water, verse 10–14)
3. What did Jesus mean by "living water"? (Jesus is our "living water" and offers us eternal life.)



Mrs. Dixie Jackson

4. Jesus had never met the Samaritan woman before she came to the well. Yet He somehow knew she had been married many times (verses 16–18). How do you think He knew this? (He is God.)
5. She had heard that the Messiah was coming (verse 25). When Jesus said, "I am he," what did he reveal about Himself (verse 26)? (that he was the Messiah)
6. Why did the woman leave her water jug after Jesus said He was the Messiah? (She was excited about what Jesus said and left her water jug to tell the townspeople about Him—verse 29.)
7. Why would she go into town, since she had tried to avoid these same people? (If God could accept her, they could too. Also, she was excited that she met Jesus and wanted to tell others about Him.)
8. Why did the people leave the town and come to see Jesus after they heard what the woman said? (They wanted to see if He was the Messiah—the promised one.)

Ministry Highlights

Read about the Arkansas Baptist Ministry called Connect and answer the questions:

You may have seen the yellow Disaster Relief shirts in Arkansas after the recent tornadoes. But did you know about Connect—a weekend mission trip experience for 7th to 12th grade students?

Thirteen-year-old Emma thought she was not ready to tell others about Jesus...that she was too young and didn't know what to say. But all of that changed through Connect. Emma said, "When I got there, it was awesome to see for the first time all of the kids...around the state come and get to share the Gospel."

That weekend was a turning point for her: She stepped out in faith and told others about the gift of salvation. She realized God wanted to work through her. "I just felt the joy of the Lord, just His Spirit exploding in me," she said.

With her decision to share the gospel, she said she sensed God saying to her, "You are mine. I can use you as a tool."

God changed Emma's life that weekend when she understood her strength is in Christ, not in herself. He also changed the lives of those she told about Jesus.

1. Romans 4:22-23 says, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord." How can someone be set free from sin?
2. Emma said that God worked through her during Connect as His "tool." What does this mean and how could you apply this to your life?

Possible Learning Activities

Watch a Reenactment of the Story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well

Ask a few older children to reenact this true story. As you read the Bible passage below, they will pretend to be different people in it. (If you are doing this with your child at home, you could ask older siblings or neighbor children to reenact the story.)

Begin with the "Samaritan woman" walking through a "crowd" of several people who move away from her as she approaches. They make ugly faces at her and point.

The "Samaritan woman" will be carrying some kind of container for water as she moves to a well. (You could just put "well" in front of a chair.) Have one of the boys stand by the chair and pretend to speak (does not make any sounds) as you read the words of Jesus.

Teacher: Jesus said to the woman, "...whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again.'...Then the WOMAN LEFT HER WATER JAR, went into town."

"Samaritan woman" puts the water jug down and walks back to the "crowd" of several people who had rejected her. She says to them, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:14, 28-29)

Younger children may also enjoy:

Craft: "Well of Life"

Learn more online by clicking in the box:

Crafts about the Woman at the Well for Sunday School—Ministry-to-Children Bible Crafts for Children's Ministry (John 4:5-42)



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You will need:

- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Construction paper
- ▶ Paper cups
- ▶ Markers or decorating materials
- ▶ String or yarn
- ▶ Hole punch

Procedure:

- ▶ Decorate the paper to look like a "well" of some sort. Embellish with sky or other elements as desired.
- ▶ Punch a hole in the top and bottom of the paper, about two inches from each border (or as much as your hole punch allows).
- ▶ Punch a hole in the side of a small paper cup, which will serve as a "bucket."
- ▶ Cut a piece of string long enough to go up and down the length of paper. Insert the string into one side of the paper, then through the cup, and then through the other side of the paper. Tie the string at the back and trim any extra ends.
- ▶ Add a verse caption, and any extra "water drops" or stickers that you like. Have fun tugging the string to raise and lower the "bucket"!

Song: "Jesus Loves Me This I Know"

Click box to open link online.

Pray Together

- ▶ Thank God for His amazing work through Arkansas Baptist ministries.
- ▶ Ask Him to help others come to know Jesus through the work of Christian Women's Job Corps, Connect Missions Weekend, Disaster Relief, and Prison Ministry.
- ▶ That Emma, and other students who went to a Connect weekend, will continue to share the gospel where God has placed them.
- ▶ That God will help you tell your friends and family about Jesus.

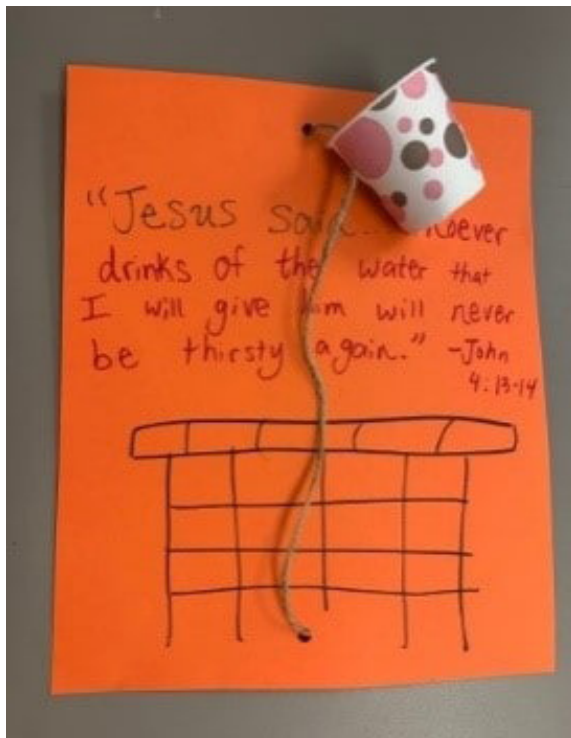
Resources

Click boxes to open links online.

- ▶ Dixie Jackson videos
- ▶ The Story of Mrs. Dixie Jackson
- ▶ CONNECT Camp Fall 2023—FBC Hope



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