

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

Prepare

- ▶ 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!
- ▶ Watch the videos about the four featured ministries at absc.org/dj.

In this lesson you will help students understand that like the woman who “left her water jar,” we all have turning points in our lives. There are many today! The culture we are living in does not promote a Christian lifestyle.

For junior high students, a turning point could be, “Do I try this illegal drug?” or “Do I look at this pornography?”

Turning points for high school students are countless. They are bombarded with decisions they must make about sex, drugs, even life and death.

Pray for the Holy Spirit’s help as you guide the conversation about turning points in the students’ lives.

Learn Together

Jesus offers us eternal life. That is really good news!

For some of you, what would your life be like without Jesus? For others: What could your life be like with Him?

This week we will have the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Its focus this year is on four ministries right here in Arkansas: Christian Women’s Job Corps, Connect Missions Weekend, Arkansas Prison Initiative, and Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief. (They are each featured in the Dixie Jackson videos found at absc.org/dj.)

You may have seen the yellow Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief shirts in your community during the recent devastating tornados. Or maybe you went on one of the life changing Connect weekends for students. But did you know that Arkansas Baptists are helping to prepare women, in a Christian setting, for life and employment? Or that there is a seminary inside a state prison?

You might be wondering, “How can I get involved?”

First, pray. Ask God to bring many to saving faith through the four ministries we’ll learn about this week. And give what you can to the Arkansas Dixie Jackson State Offering.

Pray that God will guide you in telling others about the life-changing work of Jesus. People



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are looking everywhere for the meaning of life. Many students today feel anxious, depressed, or rejected.

Phillip Slaughter, Baptist Collegiate Minister for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, said in an article posted at arkansasbaptist.org:

"We live in a world where pain and loneliness lurk around every corner. Almost daily, I talk to people who long for hope and help. Life can be hard even for the most mature Christians. Think about how difficult it must be for others. Most people do not know the deep joy that comes from the love of God and his people. They often settle for heartbreaking substitutes (such as drugs) that make empty promises and leave people more desperate and broken than before." Have you or some of your friends felt this way? There is hope! And His name is Jesus. He can turn anyone's life around.

Just ask Justin Murphy. Today he's a pastor at Beck Spur Baptist Church. But when he finished Wynne High School about 20 years ago, no one would have ever imagined him being a pastor one day. After all, that was the time when he hated everything and everybody—even himself. He said his worst-of-the-worst friends didn't want to be around him.

Justin had not returned to Wynne for years when a devastating tornado hit Central Arkansas. He never wanted to go back. Why? Because, as he said, that's "where the scars were."

But something changed inside him on March 31, 2023, when four people were killed in the town where he grew up. He wanted to return to the place where he had not been welcome.

The reason is simple: "Because," he said, "I met the man who knows everything about me. And if He knows everything about me, [then] it doesn't matter how much they know because He can change all of that."

Willing to face his place of pain, he went to share the hope of Christ with those who had lost so

much. He did this through a local Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief team. When Justin walked into the devastation of what once was his high school, it was the first time he had been there since hearing the haunting words, "Never come back."

The Justin Murphy who stepped into that rubble was not the same as the high school student who had stepped out of its walls. He now knows Jesus. "He changed everything about me," Justin said, "He showed me that I have hope...and does an amazing, amazing thing in my life."

Jesus literally turned Justin's scarred life around. And today he's using the hurts he had growing up to point others to Christ. Never, even in his wildest dream, did he think God would use a tornado as a turning point for him.

He said going back to Wynne with the Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief team was "an opportunity for me to go back and see...God can heal those scars. He can heal those hurts."

Justin describes turning points as when we make a decision to go a different direction. That's what happened to a Samaritan woman when she met Jesus at a well. Let's read about it.

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

1. Jesus was sitting beside a well, at a time when Jews did not associate with Samaritans. He saw a Samaritan woman coming to draw water. She came alone. That was strange because women then came in groups to collect water. Why was the woman surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink?
2. Our bodies need water to survive. What did Jesus mean by "living water"? (Verses 10-14)
3. What did Jesus reveal about the woman's life? (Verses 16-18)
4. She had heard that the Messiah was coming. What did Jesus reveal about Himself? (Verses 25-26)
5. The woman was so impacted by Jesus that she left her water jar and went to tell the



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townspeople about Him. Why would she do this since she had tried to avoid them before? (Verses 28-29)

6. Why did the people leave the town and come to see Jesus after they heard what the woman said?
7. If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, describe this turning point in your life.
8. Romans 6:16 says, "Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey – either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?" Why do people look to empty substitutes (such as drugs and sex) instead of to Christ?
9. Romans 6:22-23 says, "But since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification – and the outcome is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord." How can someone be set free from sin?
10. Pastor Justin Murphy was willing to become uncomfortable to help tornado victims in Wynne. Why was he willing to do this?
Jesus died on the Cross for us when we were yet sinners. (Romans 5:8) If you have scars in your own life, ask Jesus to help you. Also, ask your pastor or a parent how to take the next step.
11. Is there someone you need talk to about the free gift of eternal life ("living water") that Jesus offers?

Pray for These Ministries

Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief (ABDR extends the love of Christ to disaster survivors.)

- ▶ That disaster survivors will see the love of Jesus Christ through ABDR.
- ▶ For God to work through Disaster Relief

chaplains and first responders to provide hope in extremely difficult times.

- ▶ That there will be adequate Disaster Relief funds to update equipment, provide gas for vehicles and power tools, feed disaster survivors, etc.
- ▶ For more men and women to become ABDR volunteers. Learn more at Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief

Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC seeks to equip women, in a Christian context, for life and employment.)

- ▶ That students will complete their classes and have hearts that are open to the difference Christ can make in their daily lives.
- ▶ For the CWJC volunteers to show students the love of Christ.
- ▶ That more Arkansas Baptist churches will begin CWJC groups.
- ▶ For discernment and wisdom pairing participants with mentors.

CONNECT (A weekend of ministry, missions, worship, and fellowship for students.)

- ▶ That youth groups across our state will learn about Connect and its weekend mission opportunity for 7th-12 grade students. (A Connect weekend will be in Hope October 13-15, 2023.)
- ▶ For students to become equipped to share the gospel wherever they are.
- ▶ That God would give wisdom to the local churches choosing projects for Connect weekend.
- ▶ For the local churches and Connect students to work well together as they show the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Arkansas Prison Initiative (In May of 2023, 18 inmates earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Studies from The College at Mid-America.)

- ▶ That the 18 men who just received their Bachelor of Christian Arts degrees in prison will point other inmates to Jesus.



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- ▶ For Dr. Mark Thompson, the director of the prison initiative at the Varner Maximum Security Unit.
- ▶ That God will change lives and generations through the seminary program in the Varner Unit.
- ▶ For many inmates to become lifetime followers of Jesus Christ.

Resources

Click boxes to open links online.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention—How to Reach Out to Your Unbelieving Family Members (absc.org)

Arkansas Baptist State Convention—Help Others See God (absc.org)

New Seminary Extension to Open in Arkansas Prison (absc.org)

The Varner Unit Holds First Seminary Graduation (article and short graduation video)

Lead>Defend: A leadership and apologetics conference for high school students, collegiates, and young professionals

Finding a Place at the Well—Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah (oneplace.com)

Arkansas Baptist State Convention—CONNECT Camp Fall 2023—FBC Hope (absc.org)



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