

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria at the Well

John 4:4-29, 39-42

Prepare to Hear the Word:

- Find Samaria on a map. Most Jews would have avoided going through Samaria. Jews did not mix with Samaritans, they considered them unclean.
- Jewish men did not speak to women in public and certainly not when they were on their own. There is no evidence to suggest that the woman was an outcast in her village.
- As the woman comes to faith she addresses Jesus, first as a 'Jew' then 'Sir' and 'prophet' then finally as the 'Messiah'.

You will need:

- 10 Puppets: Jesus, woman, disciples and a few villagers.
- Bone felt circle.
- Well and bucket
- Village backdrop.

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

On the bone felt circle place the 'well in the centre of the story circle in front of the village backdrop. Place Jesus and his disciples near the well.

Indicate with your hand Jesus and the disciples, and say:

**Jesus was returning to Galilee from Judea with his disciples.
He passed through Samaria, by the village of Sychar**

Move Jesus to the well and move the disciples behind the backdrop and say:

It was noon, Jesus decided to rest at Jacob's well. The disciples went into the village for food

Move the woman and bucket close to the well, say:

A Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well, Jesus asked her for a drink.

Indicate with your hand that the woman is speaking, say:

She was surprised and said, "You, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman for a drink."

Indicate with your hand that Jesus is speaking, say:

Jesus said, "If you knew who was asking, you would have asked me, the water that I give is Living Water."

Indicate with your hand that the woman is speaking, say:

Sir, how were you going to do this? You have no bucket and the well is deep, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well?

Indicate with your hand that Jesus is speaking, say:

Jesus answered "everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty, but if you drink the water that I give, you will never be thirsty.

Move the woman slightly and indicate with your hand that the woman is speaking:

Sir, give me this water so that I will never be thirsty

Indicate with your hand that Jesus is speaking, say:

Jesus said, “Go and call your husband and come back to me”

“Sir I have no husband” she answered.

Indicate with your hand that Jesus is speaking, say:

“You are right, you have had five husbands and the one you have now is not your husband”

Indicate with your hand that the woman is speaking, say:

“Sir I can see that you are a prophet but I know the Messiah is coming and that he will tell us everything”

Indicate with your hand that Jesus is speaking, say:

Jesus said, “I am he, the one who is speaking with you.”

Move the disciples back to near the well:

At that moment the disciples returned, but they asked no questions.

Move the woman behind the backdrop, leaving the bucket:

The woman left her bucket, went into the town and told the people to come and listen to Jesus.

Move the woman and the villagers out near Jesus and say:

Many people in the town believed because of what the woman had said

Jesus stayed in the village for two days. And many more believed in Jesus because of his word.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

I Wonder : I wonder why Jesus walked through Samaria

- I wonder why the unnamed woman was at the well at midday, on her own.
- I wonder why Jesus did not go into the town with the disciples
- I wonder why the disciples asked no questions when they returned
- I wonder why the villagers listened to the woman and came to Jesus
- I wonder why John told his community this story



Prepare to Hear the Word – Teacher

The Samaritan woman is part of a marginalised community. She is surprised when Jesus speaks to her, asking her for water to drink. He talks freely with her, listens to her and treats her with dignity. Jesus challenges the rules and social structures of his time. He reveals – to a Samaritan woman and her community – that he is the Messiah, the gift of God that they have waited for. This knowledge empowers them and helps them to live differently. John often portrays Jesus as a ‘bridegroom’ in his Gospel. He tells the Samaritan woman that she has 5 husbands plus the partner she has now (6) which leaves Jesus as the seventh, and therefore, the perfect one.

John 4:4-29, 39-42

4But he had to go through Samaria. 5So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^{*} 10Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ 11The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ 13Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ 15The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

16 Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ 17The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”’; 18for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ 19The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ 21Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ 25The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ 26Jesus said to her, ‘I am he,^{*} the one who is speaking to you.’

27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ 28Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. 41And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’