

The Woman At the Well

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

The 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.) Jesus 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."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but 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."

The 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."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

Storyteller: Hold out the Jesus figure to the children. For three years, Jesus and his disciples travelled through the land of Israel, healing the sick and teaching the people. *Set Jesus down and stand the Apostles beside him.*

One day, around about noon, Jesus was tired out by his journey and sat down by a well. *Put the well down in front of the children.*

It was the well that had been dug long ago by Jacob. *Sit Jesus down on the edge of the well.* His disciples left him there and went to the city to buy food. *Move the apostles away to the side.*

A Samaritan woman came to draw water. *Move the Samaritan Woman close to the well.* Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How can you ask me for a drink?" She knew that most Jews were prejudiced against Samaritans.

Jesus answered her, "If you knew who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

Sit the Samaritan woman down on the well next to Jesus. The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

Use the woman's jug to dip a bit of water out of the well and show it to the children. Dip your fingers into the water and let it drip back into the jug. Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but 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."

In this section, as Jesus and the woman debate, touch each one gently to indicate who is speaking.

Story Materials

- wireframe dolls
- Jesus (with stand)
- Apostles (with stands)
- Woman (with stand)
- well (filled with water)
- jar

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

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?"

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."

Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true,

The 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."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

The woman answered him, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Christ is coming. When he comes, he will teach us these things."

Jesus said to her, "I am he." Just then the disciples came back.

Move the disciples back so they are standing beside the well.

They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman. The woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he be the Christ?"

'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They 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 Savior of the world."