

2. Communities Accept (John 4:1-42)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Get the Word Out
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Collaborative Building
Common Ground Scavenger Hunt
Loving God, Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Pencils | Paper | Markers

Gather: TV/DVD player

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: "Building supplies" of your choosing | Bowl of water | LED candle | Tablecloth

Bless: Bowl of water | LED candle | Tablecloth

Before You Teach

In today's Bible story, Jesus leaves Judea to go back to Galilee because the Pharisees have heard that he was making and baptizing more disciples than John. It was actually Jesus' disciples who were doing the baptizing, but the responsibility fell on Jesus. On his journey, Jesus passes through Samaria, he stops to rest at a well, and a Samaritan woman comes by to draw water. Jesus asks the woman to give him some water to drink. The woman asks him why, he, a Jew, would ask her, a Samaritan, for something to drink. (Jews and Samaritans did not associate with each other during this time).

Jesus responds by hinting to her that he is the Messiah, and that if she recognized that she would be asking him for living water. The woman continues to talk about the water in the well, and Jesus responds by talking to her about the living water and eternal life. The woman gets excited and asks for the water so that she will never be thirsty again. Jesus then tells her things about her life and marital status, and she thinks that he is a prophet so she asks him where to worship (whether to worship where they are, as her ancestors believed, or in Jerusalem as the Jews believed). Jesus tells her that the time is coming when the only important thing will be to worship God in spirit and in truth. The woman indicates that she knows a Messiah is coming who will teach them everything, and Jesus reveals that he is the one of whom she speaks.

The disciples, who had gone in search of food for Jesus, return and are shocked that he's speaking with a Samaritan woman. The woman leaves and goes into the city to tell others about Christ. Many believe her, and Jesus stays for two days teaching them. Many more become believers.

You'll want the children to understand that it didn't matter that Jesus and the woman were different. Jesus accepted her just as she was, just as Jesus accepts us. You'll also want them to understand that we are called to do the same in accepting those who are different from us.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of "Attendance Chart" (Class Kit—pp. 15 & 18, or 16–17) at eye level.

- Play "God's Stories" (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the "Attendance Chart." For the "Community Attendance Chart," the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #2.

SAY: Our Bible story is about how Jesus accepted a woman who was different from him.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 2 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "What Jesus Offered" (Activity Sheets—p. 5). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the "The Woman Said" activity (Activity Sheets—p. 6).

SAY: Today's Bible story reminds us that communities accept.

OR

B—Get the Word Out (Discussion)

Before class: Gather paper and pencils.

SAY: Our Scripture tells the story of a Samaritan woman who spread the word to her community about Jesus. Back then, there were not many options for ways of spreading important news. The Samaritan woman carried the news to people by talking to them. Today, we have many more options for informing people.

ASK: How would you spread the word today?

- Divide the children into teams, and give each team paper and pencils.
 - Have the teams discuss among themselves how they would spread the word about Jesus today.
 - Have a whole class discussion, and let each group present their ideas.
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Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring chairs or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a useful way to help children easily move from one activity to the next.*

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- When have you had important news to share and how did you share it?
 - Who makes you feel accepted?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—John 4:1-42).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 2.

SAY: Today, we're talking about the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

ASK: How do you show love to people who are different?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out "Communities Accept" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 2).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the "Unit 1 Bible Verse" poster (Class Kit—pp. 5 & 28).

- Read the memory verse to the children: The community of believers was one in heart and mind (Acts 4:32).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
 - Have the children say the verse to another child.
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Collaborative Building (Science)

Before class: Have a variety of “building supplies” of your choosing on hand.

- Divide the children into pairs.
- Give each pair one type of supply. Suggestions include, craft sticks, paper clips, rubber bands, and chenille stems. Name the pairs by their supply. For example, the “craft sticks” and “the paper clips.”
- Tell each pair that they need to join with another pair and build a bridge together using only what the two groups have.
- Let the pairs work together to build their bridge.

SAY: People are all different from one another, just as the supplies that your teams had were different, yet we all need one another. The Samaritan woman and her community learned that they needed what Jesus had, even though Jews and Samaritans did not usually associate with one another.

ASK: What was it like to work together on one idea when you each had different building supplies?

OR

Common Ground Scavenger Hunt (Game)

Before class: Photocopy “Common Ground Scavenger Hunt” (Leader Guide—p. 18) for each child. Have pencils or markers on hand.

- Give each child a copy of the “Common Ground Scavenger Hunt” sheet and a writing instrument.

SAY: Although the Samaritan woman and Jesus were different, they were able to find common ground. Today, we are going to find some things that we have in common with some of our classmates. Each time you find a classmate who meets the requirement listed on the sheet, check it off and write the person’s name next to the requirement listed.

- Let the children complete the activity.

ASK: What did you find surprising or interesting about this activity?

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Display the “Missions” poster (Class Kit—p. 2). Have a box, crayons, markers, and other art supplies of your choosing on hand.

- Let the children decorate a donation box for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.
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Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth, an LED candle, and a bowl of water.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 1 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about accepting those who are different. Our Bible verse teaches us about believers being one in heart and mind, regardless of differences. Let’s learn to say today’s Bible verse in sign language, and share it with another person in the class as we remember that we are one in heart and mind.

- Gather the children around the “Bible Verse Signs” poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
- Teach the children to sign the verse.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for making us a community of believers who are one in heart and mind. Amen.

Praising

SAY: Today, we learned that Jesus accepted the woman at the well even though she was different from him. Each of us have differences as well. Let’s welcome one another with a gesture of acceptance.

- Have the children go around the room and give one another high fives and say, “welcome!”

PRAY: God, thank you for allowing us all to find acceptance here in our church family. Amen.

Blessing

- Have the children form a circle around the worship center, and light the candle.
- Call each child to you by name one at a time.
- Have each child dip his or her hand into the bowl of water. Say the following phrase to each child.

SAY: We accept you with the love of Jesus Christ.

- Have each child rejoin the circle after you have said the phrase above.

PRAY: Dear God, bless each person here with acceptance and love. Amen.

TIP: *Afterward, use the bowl of water to water plants or around the building if available.*

At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned today about Jesus and the woman at the well? What did you learn about accepting those who are different from you? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets, Session 2, and the Unit 1 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Common Ground Scavenger Hunt

Write the name of a person in the class who has the characteristic listed. If you can't find a person who has the exact characteristic listed, write down the name of someone who comes close.



1. Find a person who is the same height as you.

2. Find a person who has the same favorite color as you.

3. Find a person who has the same favorite food as you.

4. Find a person who has the same favorite TV show as you.

5. Find a person who has a similar hobby to you.

6. Find a person whose birthday is in the same season as yours.

