

*Get Ready!***Thirsty?**

By: Annie Wagganer

**Text**

John 4:1-30, 39-42 (NIV)

Key Quest Verse

“We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” 1 John 4:14 (NASV)

Bible Background

The opening prologue of the gospel of John sets forth the purpose for John’s writings, which is to prove that Jesus was the promised Messiah and Son of God. Furthermore, John 20:30-31 states “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” Though scholars debate the date at which the gospel of John was written, many feel that the primary intention of the writings was evangelistic. John’s aim was to provide witness of Jesus’ ministry and miracles, in order to win others to Christ while building up current believers.

The first eleven chapters of the gospel of John describe Jesus’ public ministry. It is here, in the fourth chapter, that we find the story of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well. Prior to this event, Jesus had spent time in the Judean countryside with His disciples. Since their success in baptism aroused opposition in the Pharisees, Jesus found it necessary to leave the countryside to return to Galilee, which led them through Samaria, a hostile area often avoided by traveling Jews. While journeying, Jesus grew weary and rested by the site of Jacob’s well while His disciples left to find food. At this location, He spoke with the Samaritan woman.

The woman at the well has become a well-known Bible story because in it, Jesus breaks traditional protocol. First, He, a Jew, spoke with a Samaritan. Ordinarily, the two groups had no dealings together. Secondly, men in Jewish society usually avoided women in order to prevent impropriety. Third, Jesus requested that she give Him a drink of water from her vessel. As Jews considered Samaritans unclean, to drink from her vessel would have made Him ceremonially unclean. By breaking social conventions and traditions, Jesus was able to present the gospel in a straightforward manner. In addition, He used natural circumstances, the water, to teach the spiritual lesson of salvation and eternal life. He explained to her that He brings “living water” to convey His message to her in a manner to which she could relate. It did not have the overtones in Samaria that it had in Judea.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** Jesus is the Son of God who offers living water**Feel:** Excited to tell others about Jesus**Do:** Recognize specific needs in their life they can ask God and His Son to meet**Leader's Devotion**

We can all remember times in our lives when we have felt like an outcast, excluded from those who had more, dressed superior, or performed better. Unfortunately, we can also remember times when we were the one with more, superior dress, and a better performance. It's so easy to compare and teens especially face the disease of comparisonidous. The disease can be cured though when we recognize that all children of God are Samaritans – maybe not natives of Samaria, but all in need of living water, all with sin waiting to be exposed, all outcasts in some way...all needing to hear and accept that Jesus is the Messiah. Neither superior nor inferior, we are all in need of a Savior. As you prepare for your class, practice viewing yourself and others no longer from a comparison standard, but from the perspective of an outcast brought into the body of Christ not because of better dress but because of a thirst needing to be quenched. Share your experiences with your class.



Get Set!

Option A

Materials: Poster board, tape

Before class write the following ten behaviors (or some of your own ideas) on separate pieces of poster board. Have the students work together to arrange them in a top ten list, #1 being the worst one to get caught doing. If time allows, have them rearrange them into another top ten list, with #1 being the one that would cause the most guilt to live with if you weren't caught, see how the lists compare.

Some of us probably feel guilty for things we've done or haven't done. I'm betting all of us have moments in our lives that our parents don't know and we hope will never know about. It's scary to get caught when we have failed to live up to someone else's expectations but whether we try to hide or not, our heavenly Father doesn't miss a thing. He and His Son know everything there is to know about each of us, every experience that we've had and every time we've failed. This can seem overwhelming unless we understand the truth, that Jesus came "not to judge the world but that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:17 NASV). We know that we are still loved even when we fail. Let's turn to the Scripture to read of a specific woman who had her sins exposed by Jesus.

Taking an extra \$10 from dad's wallet
Cheating on a test
Telling a racist joke
Making fun of a friend behind their back
Snooping in a friend's room

Sneaking in an hour past curfew
Speeding in a school zone
Cheating on your boyfriend/girlfriend
Skipping school
Lying to a parent

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Option B

Materials: A sampler of salty/spicy foods, such as peanuts, chips, crackers, beef jerky, popcorn

Let kids sample the snacks as everyone shares with each other something that is on the top of their "wish list." Wait until someone asks for a drink before offering any lemonade or water for refreshment. Take this opportunity to remind the teens that just as salty foods make us thirsty, God has created all of us to thirst for righteousness and to know Him. In our Bible story, Jesus explains He is the way to finding living water to satisfy our thirst.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Bible Story

Advanced Preparation: Gather Bibles and highlighters

Have one teen read John 4:3-30, 39-42. While the story is being read have the teens identify at least one point in the story that they can relate to the Samaritan woman and highlight that passage. Possibilities include, feeling confused at the words of Jesus (vs. 11,12), feeling like their sins have been exposed (vs. 17,18), or feeling excluded (vs. 27). The story might have to be read more than once.

Go!

Haunted

GAME

Materials: Worksheet, Psalm 69:5, and pens

Procedure: If you have enough space in the room or in a designated area of the church, play a quick game of hide and seek. The church should be well lit and the game should take only a few minutes, as space is limited as well. Depending on the kids' enthusiasm, play several rounds and then discuss the difficulty of the game.



Quest Connection

Hide and Seek is made much more difficult in the dark or in rooms with many hiding spaces, but trying to play Hide and Seek with God is like trying to play with the lights on and without any place to hide. The truth is, there is nowhere for us to hide, God knows us and He knows when we mess up and feel like running into a dark spot in the world and being far from Him. But what He desires is for us to run back to Him, into the light and let Him forgive us our failures. Past mistakes are not hidden – praise God – He knows them all and He will forgive us when we confess and ask for His grace. Some of us think that we play Hide and Seek with God more often than others, thinking we are much worse sinners. And then there are some of us who think there are other people who need to be hiding more because they mess up so much more than we do. But Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” And in Romans 5:8 we find that “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” When Jesus met the woman at the well, He did not say “Woman, since you are not perfect, I can not offer you living water.” No Way! But He did acknowledge her past, and knowing everything about her and all the ways her life was messy, He said, “If you drink this living water, you will thirst no more.”

Close

Use the worksheet to have a few minutes of quiet reflection. Each teen finds a space where they feel comfortable to write down, maybe in code so no one else besides God can decipher their thoughts, any mistakes they have tried to hide from God. To end class, have every one pray Psalm 69:5 together.

Go!

More Than Enough

GAME/OBJECT LESSON

Materials: Song *Enough*, several and different brands of bottled water



Procedure: Before class set up several different types of bottled water on a table. In front of them write the prices for each one on an index card and then switch them around so that the prices do not correspond with the correct bottle of water. After reading the Bible Story asks kids trivia questions about the story to win chances to play “The Price is Right.” The object is for the teen to arrange the prices in the right order within a designated time (amount of time depending on how many bottles; for example, with 3 bottles, allow 30 seconds, with 6 bottles, allow for a minute). Try to let as many kids as possible have a chance at guessing the right prices.

Quest Connection

Whoever thought of the concept of bottling water must be a very rich person; it seems everyone is buying bottles of water these days. I think it’s cheapest to buy water in bulk at Sam’s club, but none of the bottles are free. In our story, Jesus offered the woman at the well living water. How much did He sell it for? What was the cost attached? In the story it doesn’t mention anything about the woman paying Jesus, why not? Ultimately there is a price for living water, it too is not free. In order to drink living water, we have to be forgiven of our sins, our mistakes have to be covered, paid for. And Jesus paid the price, He died on the cross and was risen from the dead so that all who believe in Him can have eternal life and drink from the living water for FREE!

Close

Pass out the song lyrics, *More than Enough*, for teens to read. If possible, sing the song together or listen to it on a CD player. **The woman at the well had been married to several different men, she was going to the well to get water in the afternoon possible to avoid other women who would look down on her. She didn’t find satisfaction in a husband, she didn’t find satisfaction in friendships, changes are in her life, there were many needs she needed to be met. Like the song lyrics say, Jesus was more than enough for her and He is more than enough for all of us. It’s tough when we are going through difficult circumstances to believe that there really is someone who can satisfy our deepest needs. When the woman realized what Jesus was offering, she responded, “Could He be the Messiah?” She knew there was only One who could offer to meet her needs completely, and still today, He is more than enough. Next to the line, “for every thirst and every need,” write down any specific needs in your life and silently thank God for His provision, for His Son who offers living water, eternal life.**

Go!

Can He Do That?

CREATIVE WRITING/DISCUSSION

Materials: Scissors, glue Worksheet, *Can He Do That?*, pens, and if possible, a bulletin board to display the finished worksheets

Procedure: Have teens write the names of an ethnic/racial group, a particular group at their school, or religious groups that either they have a hard time accepting or that they know are often subject to ridicule, stereotypes, or offensive jokes. Then have them cut out each circle on the page.

Quest Connection

Remind the students that in the time of Jesus, for a man to speak publicly to a stranger that was a woman was very uncommon. Also, Jews avoided interacting with Samaritans. Read John 4:27 – even the disciples, Jesus closest friends, were shocked to see Him speaking with a woman. **These verses recorded in John help to remind us that Jesus didn't come and offer salvation to a select group, He came even for the lower class of society, in His day, women and Samaritans. We've already written down groups of people that either our society or we have a hard time accepting. Now let's use the biggest circle to represent God's offer of eternal life and glue each smaller circle inside of it – Jesus said in vs 14, "whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." It's for "WHOEVER" chooses to drink.**

Close

Share with each other how Jesus' view of a Samaritan and a woman changes our views of excluded groups in our culture. Display the circles in your classroom to remind us of Jesus' trip through Samaria.



Go!**Your Decision****GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Materials: Poster board, markers, 3x5 cards, pens, prizes

Procedure: Divide class into two or three groups and explain that they will each have 7 minutes to prepare a presentation for the rest of the class. Their presentation will be one trying to persuade the entire class that their man or woman of faith (one that they will choose as individual teams) is the greatest at spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. (Examples: Mother Theresa, Paul, Martin Luther, any of the disciples, etc.). Let each group use markers and posterboard if they need to include illustrations, charts, or graphs to highlight their main points – encourage them to be creative. Using the 3x5 cards, after every team has presented, have an anonymous vote and reward the winning team with a small prize (one that they can hopefully share with the rest of the class, like a bag of candy/gum).

Quest Connection

In our story, the Samaritan woman went into the city of Sychar, in Samaria, to tell others about her encounter with Jesus Christ. And in verses 39-42 we read of the Samaritans responding to her message and believing in Christ – this woman was effective in spreading the news. But perhaps the most important verse is the last one, verse 42 that says, “and they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.’” Ultimately each man and woman of the town had to believe for themselves, they had to seek to know Jesus – they came because of what the woman had said, but they believed because of what their own heart was convinced. Each person of faith that we mentioned today is responsible for bringing others to Christ and we too should be telling others about the Savior we have in our lives. But it’s also just as important not to rely on what others tell you about Him, we each need to personally seek Him. Some people are born into a Christian family and they are told about the story of Jesus their entire lives and grow up as a “Christian” yet they miss out on knowing the gift of God, eternal life that is possible through accepting Jesus as their Savior. Don’t miss it!

Close

Offer each teen who hasn’t accepted Jesus as their personal Savior through baptism the opportunity to talk with the Pastor or another adult about this decision.

Go!**Sharing Christ****OBSTACLE COURSE**

Materials: Worksheet, *Obstacles*, materials for an obstacle course (suggested ideas below), stopwatch, bubble gum.

Procedure: Before class set up an obstacle race. Either time kids one at a time or as a team making the race a relay. Give them a chance to beat their best times, competing against the clock.

Example: Have the teens begin by lacing a tennis shoe with their eyes closed, once accomplished, hop on one leg for five steps until they come to a brown paper bag they have to pick up...with their teeth and place it three steps ahead of them, where they have to hop over a small object, both feet at a time, and racing to get to the final test (if possible, have the teens run up stairs or around the building/or table) which is to unwrap a piece of bubble gum, chew and blow a bubble which stops the clock.

Quest Connection

Sometimes sharing our faith or our experience as a follower of Jesus seems like an obstacle course. We get confused, it seems overwhelming or we just don't think we'll get to the point where someone is willing to listen to us. Our story says the woman at the well went into the city to invite others to meet Jesus, the man who told her all the things that she had done. What obstacles do you think she faced? Use the worksheet and answer the first two questions as a class. Allow teens to have personal time to answer the last three questions and then discuss any answers they are willing to share with each other.

Close

Pray that all of us will go and tell others about Christ. Have each teen lift up the name of one person they think they can talk to about their faith. Don't forget to check up next week!



Go!**Heart of Worship****MUSIC**

Materials: Whiteboard and markers, song lyrics, *Heart of Worship*, and song books

Procedure: Read together or listen together to the song lyrics, *Heart of Worship*

Quest Connection

God is concerned with how you worship – not how you sing, raise your hands or the words you use to pray – but with the worth that you give Him. In the English language, worship used to be spelled, “worthship” with an emphasis on the word worth. God cares that we place all worth in Him. He is worthy of our time, our energy, and all of our resources including our money and our talent. Jesus said there is a time coming when we will all worship in spirit and in truth. It is important that when God searches us during our worship time that He finds our hearts to be completely sold out to Him. We all have to decide what is worthy enough of our attention and God expects that He be it. We can express that in many different ways and many of us have our own specific ideas of how a worship service on Sunday mornings should be organized. But God is more concerned with whether we are genuinely placing all worth in Him and less concerned with how well we sing or if we take up the offering before or after the sermon.

If the Pastor and/or church leaders agree, have teens plan their own worship service for the church. Brainstorm ideas on a whiteboard or chalkboard until you have a final outline. Let them pick out the songs, maybe they’ll want to do a skit of the Bible story, or perhaps a few of the teens would feel comfortable collecting the offering. Let and encourage the teens in your church experience the heart of worship.

Close

Sing *Heart of Worship* together

**JESUS SAID TO HER,
“I WHO SPEAK TO YOU AM HE”**

Jesus clearly states that He is the Messiah, our Savior.

Write a few sentences about what right now is keeping you from accepting this.

If you have accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, write down your “Samaritan Story”

– meaning a time or times in your life that your confidence in Jesus Christ has become stronger.

**“From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him
because of the word of the woman who testified,
‘He told me all the things that I have done.’”
John 4:39**

Name three obstacles the Samaritan woman faced.

What were three obstacles you/your team faced in the obstacle course?

Name three obstacles you are facing in your life right now.

Do these obstacles make it harder or easier to tell others about Christ?

Who are three people you can tell about Christ this week?

The Heart of Worship
words and music by Matt Redman
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When the music fades, all is stripped away,
And I simply come, longing just to bring
Something that's of worth that will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song,
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart
I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You
All about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You,
All about You, Jesus

King of endless worth, no one could express
How much You deserve. Though I'm weak and poor,
All I have is Yours, every single breath.

I'll bring You more than a song,
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart
I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You
All about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You,
All about You, Jesus

Enough

words by Chris Tomlin and Louis Giglio

music by Chris Tomlin

can be found on the CD, Passion: Our Love is Loud 2002

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All of You

Is more than enough for all of me

For every thirst and every need

You satisfy me with Your love

And all I have in You is more than enough

You are my supply

My breath of life

Still more awesome than I know

You are my reward

Worth living for

Still more awesome than I know

You're my sacrifice

Of greatest price

And still more awesome than I know

You're my coming King

You are everything

Still more awesome than I know

More than all I want

More than all I need

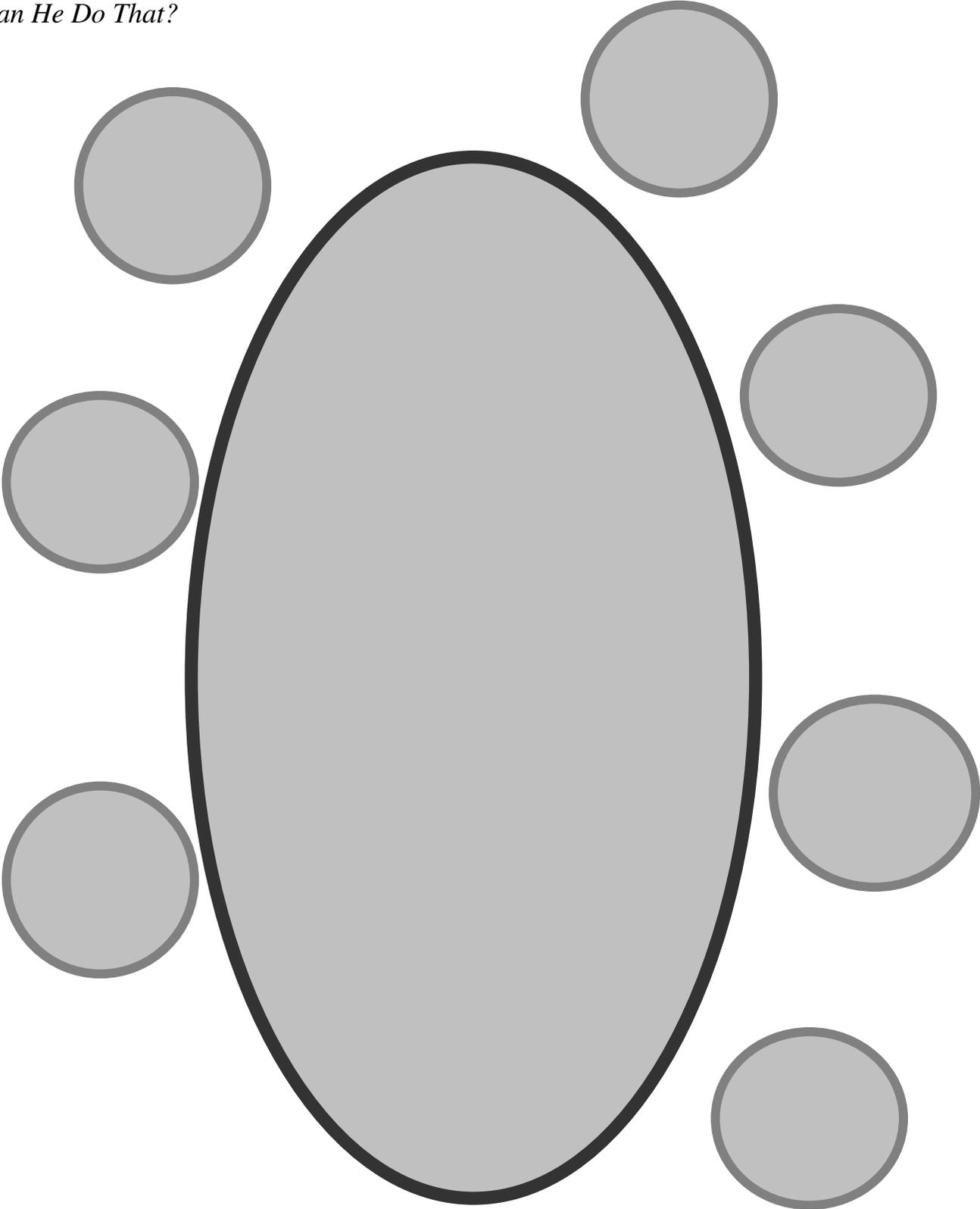
You are more than enough for me

More than all I know

More than all I can see

You are more than enough

Can He Do That?



Psalm 69:5 (NKJV)

O God, You know my foolishness;

And my sins are not hidden from You.

