Morning – At – Glance

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The Bible Story: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4

Jesus had been teaching in Judea. He and His disciples began traveling back to Galilee. They traveled through Samaria and stopped in a town with a well. Jesus’ disciples went into town to buy food.

While Jesus was at the well, a Samaritan woman came to get water from the well. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

The woman was surprised. “Why are You talking to me?” she asked. “You’re a Jew, and I’m a Samaritan.”

Jesus said, “I asked you for a drink. You don’t know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Me for a drink, and I would give you living water.”

The woman was confused. She said, “Sir, this well is deep, and You don’t have a bucket. Where do You get this ‘living water’?”

Jesus said, “Anyone who drinks this well water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water I give will never be thirsty again! In fact, the water I give will become a well inside you, and
you will have eternal life.” Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, but the woman did not understand.

“Sir,” she said, “give me this water. If I’m not thirsty, I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water.”

“Go get your husband,” Jesus said.

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus knew she was telling the truth. He said, “You don’t have a husband now, but you’ve had five husbands.”

Jesus was right. “I see You are a prophet,” the woman said. Maybe this prophet could explain something to her. She said, “The Samaritans worship here on a mountain, but the Jews say we need to worship at the temple in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said, “Soon you will not need to be in either of those places to worship God in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman left and told the people in her town, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?”

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. Jesus stayed in their town for two days. Many more believed because of what Jesus said. They told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

Christ Connection: Jesus offers something better than physical water; He gives us Himself. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who comes to Him by faith. We can worship Him as Lord and Savior wherever we are.

Leader's Bible Study

At the time Jesus was on earth, Jews and Samaritans didn’t get along. The strife between the two groups stretched back hundreds of years, to the Babylonian exile.

When the Babylonians attacked Judah, they moved a large group of God’s people away from their homes. But some of the people—the poorest, sickest, least able to work—were left behind in the region that became known as Samaria. The exile lasted 70 years. During that time, those left in Samaria began to mingle with their neighbors to the north. They intermarried and practiced foreign customs. While the Samaritans still believed in God, they adapted foreign beliefs as well.
The Jews who returned home from Babylon to rebuild God’s temple in Jerusalem rejected this new way of life. They were dedicated to obeying and worshiping God, so they didn’t agree with the Samaritans’ practices. The Samaritans opposed the Jews’ efforts to reestablish their nation. In time, the Jews’ hate for the Samaritans grew—so much so that a Jew traveling from Judea to Galilee would take a longer route to travel around Samaria rather than through it.

Jesus broke down barriers when He traveled to Galilee by way of Samaria. Even more surprising, Jesus stopped at a well around noon and asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. Jewish men did not speak to women in public.

But Jesus was kind to her, and He offered her a gift: living water. The woman didn’t understand, but Jesus revealed His knowledge of her past. He even gave her a glimpse of the future. The Samaritan woman expected a Messiah to come and fix everything. Jesus said, “I am He.”

Explain to kids that the living water Jesus offers is the Holy Spirit. (See John 7:37-39.) The Holy Spirit is a gift that He is eager to give us when we ask Him. Those who receive His grace will never be thirsty again.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

❖ Memory Verse Review: Small poster and cards are located in the page protector in the front of your binder. If you want another set, please let your Team Coach know. (Choose ONE game – rotate from week to week.
   ➢ Card Mix-Up: Scramble the cards with the words of the memory verse. Time the kids to see how quickly they can place them in order.
   ➢ Missing Card: Lay the memory verse cards on the floor. Have the kids read the verse several times. Then, remove several cards and have the kids try again. Remove cards and recite the verse until all the cards are gone.
   ➢ Concentration: Lay the memory verse cards face down. Each child takes turns turning over two cards. If one of those are the first words of the verse, they set them out and can go again. Each child takes turns turning over two cards and setting out the next words of the verse.
   ➢ Dry Erase-A-Word: Write out the words of the memory verse on the board. Have the kids recite the verse. Then, erase one or two words and have the kids recite the verse. Continue erasing and reciting until all the words are gone and the kids have the verse memorized.
   ➢ Bean Bag Games: As you throw the beanbag, each child says the next word of the verse.

Opening Question: Prompt kids to share what their favorite beverages are. Connect to the Lesson: No matter what your favorite drink is, many people agree that clean water is one of the healthiest things we can drink. Our bodies need water to live, and because it doesn’t have any calories, sugar, or sweeteners, it’s considered a lot healthier than sodas or juice. Today we will learn about a special kind of water that only Jesus can give, and it’s the best of all.

Plug-In Activity #1 – Coloring Page: If your children like coloring, invite them to color the page.

(2nd grade & up) Plug-In #2 - Activity Page: Invite kids to complete “Big Picture Jars” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the pictures in the jars to fill in the answer to the big picture
question. **Connect to the lesson:** Do you believe that all people are special? The Bible says they are! In the Bible story we are going to hear today, Jesus traveled through a place called Samaria and met a woman who some people did not think was very special or important. Do you think Jesus talked to her? Why? Let’s find out more.

**Plug-In Activity #3 – “Everything You Did”:** Select one member of your family to act out something he/she did the day before. Allow the rest of the family to guess what he/she is acting out. Whoever is correct will take the next turn acting out something he did. **Connect to the lesson:** We do all kinds of things in a day. Some things might be easy for another to guess, such as eating or sleeping, but other things might be hard to guess. Today we will hear a story about a time Jesus showed He knew about a person’s sin without her telling Him.

**Plug-In Activity #4 – “Picture Words”:** Invite kids to play a guessing game. Choose one child to be the artist. Whisper to the artist one of the following picture words: bucket, water, thirsty, drink, woman. The rest of the family should try to guess what the artist is drawing. The artist may not speak or write any letters or words. When someone guesses what the artist has drawn, choose another person to be the artist. Play several rounds. **Connect to the lesson:** Does anyone know what all these pictures have in common? They are all pictures of things in the Bible story we are going to hear today.

**TEACH THE BIBLE STORY**

It’s so wonderful to worship together! We're going to continue our time together worshiping God as we study His Word. Last week we returned to our study in the New Testament where Jesus has grown up and is revealing to the people that He is the Messiah – He is the Anointed One that all the prophets in the Old Testament had said was coming to save people. From the fact that …

He came from the line of David to the fact that…

even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father’s plan...to the fact that

Jesus obeyed God by being baptized, Jesus’ life revealed that He is the Messiah.

Jesus called twelve unschooled, ordinary men to follow and learn from him. These men said “yes” to becoming His disciples – people who would live with Jesus and learn from Him.

Jesus was also doing things that only God can do -- people came to Jesus, and He healed them from all kinds of diseases! News of all Jesus had done began to spread from town to town and all over the countryside.

But not everyone accepted who Jesus was.

When Jesus traveled to the town where he grew up, the town of Nazareth, He taught that He is the Messiah. When Jesus reminded them that God’s plan was for Gentiles as well as Jews, the people got angry and rejected Jesus and rushed Him out of the synagogue to kill Him – but it was not time for Jesus to die and He escaped.

Last week we learned that Jesus traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. At night, a religious
leader named Nicodemus, met with Jesus to learn more. **Jesus taught Nicodemus that we must be born again.** Nicodemus was confused and asked questions. Jesus wasn’t like all the other religious teachers. *Was Jesus really the Messiah? And was it true that we are saved through what Jesus does, and not by trying to do all the right things? Nicodemus was learning and seeking – and that is what we do here – keep learning and seeking Jesus!*

So, let’s continue. Last week we were reading in John 3. This week, we are studying John 4. So, let’s turn to John 4 in our Bibles.

_Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard about him. They had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John. But in fact Jesus was not baptizing. His disciples were._

Jesus’ disciples were baptizing people, and people began following Jesus. When it was time for Jesus to leave Judea and go back to Galilee, He and His disciples started traveling north. So, looking at the map, what country would Jesus and disciples have to travel through to get from Judea to Galilee? Well, you would think it would be Samaria, but 2,000 years ago when Jesus lived here on earth, most Jews did not travel through Samaria. They went around the land instead. You know why? Well, the Jews and the Samaritans -- that is, the people who live in Samaria -- did NOT get along.

4 Jesus had to go through Samaria. 5 He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of land Jacob had given his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey. So he sat down by the well. It was about noon.

But of course, Jesus was not like other Jews. And so, Jesus leads His disciples through Samaria. And Jesus, because He was fully human, was tired, the Bible says. Then, what happened? Let’s keep reading.

7 A woman from Samaria came to get some water. Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”
8 His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

Jesus doesn’t ignore the woman, even though she is a Samaritan. He humbles Himself and asks for help, for a drink. What do you think happened next? Well, let’s watch our Bible story video and find out.

_BIBLE STORY VIDEO (3:28 mins)_

The Samaritan woman was surprised that a Jewish man would talk to her. But more than just talk with her, Jesus offered the woman living water. What did the woman learn about Jesus? Let’s look at John 4:19. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.]

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

The woman believed He was a prophet. She was right, but that’s not all Jesus is. What else did the woman learn about Jesus? Look at John 4:25-26. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.]

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming.” Messiah means Christ. “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus said, “The one you’re talking about is the one
speaking to you. I am he."

Jesus loved the Samaritan woman. Jesus knew all about the woman’s sin and still wanted to know her and save her. He talked about living water, but she was confused. He didn’t mean literal water, He meant God the Holy Spirit. **Jesus explained that He gives the Holy Spirit to those who believe.** God the Holy Spirit lives inside believers, and He helps us to understand God’s Word and obey Him.

When we have the Holy Spirit living within us, love and joy begin to fill our lives and overflow into the lives of the people around us. We become like a new well that can provide refreshment to our friends, family, and everyone we meet.

And that is what the Samaritan woman did – she went running back into town and told everyone that she had met the Messiah – that Jesus was the Messiah. And what happened? Let’s look at verse 42.

42 **They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said. We have now heard for ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”**

Jesus offers something better than physical water; He gives us Himself. Jesus gives God the Holy Spirit to everyone who comes to Him by faith. We can worship Him as Lord and Savior wherever we are. We can spread the good news about Jesus and help other people begin a relationship with Him. Then they can be filled with living water too!

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER**

This story reminds me of our Big Picture Question – **Why did God create people?**

Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow kids to respond.]

The answer to our big picture question is, **God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.** We can see that Jesus specifically went through a part of the country where the people did not know Him. He revealed to the Samaritan woman that He was the Messiah – causing her and many in the town to worship Him and love Him, and show His glory. This is why we were each created – this is our purpose in life – to worship and love God and show His glory to all those around us!

**MISSIONS MOMENT**

And last week we learned that one way we show God’s glory is by loving people and serving them. A specific way that we invited all of you to show God’s love was to buy a backpack and fill it with school supplies that we can give to refugee children from the country of Afghanistan.

We learned that refugees are people who have had to leave their homes because they are no longer safe. God has brought to America many families from Afghanistan.

A big “thank you” to all of you who were part of buying and filling backpacks. These backpacks
will be delivered and we hope to have pictures to show you really soon of children receiving these backpacks.

But some of you might be thinking, “Oh, we missed that! We weren’t able to be a part of that backpack drive!” Or, maybe you did bring a backpack back, and you’re thinking, that was so awesome, how could I show God’s love again?

Well, guess what? We have another way you can be part of showing God’s glory and love. How? Well, first let me ask, “How many of you like jumping up and down?” “How many of you like cheering for your favorite team?” “How many of you like making posters?” If you said “yes” to any of those, we have an opportunity for you – we need lots of families to come and cheer for students with special needs at our church’s Night to Shine – Shine Thru Event!

We want these children to know that God loves them and that they are His masterpiece. That they, too, show the glory of God. So, what is a Shine Thru Event? Take a look at this video to get an idea.

**NTS Video (about 4 mins)**

So you might have noticed, a lot of places all around the world were in the video. That’s because Night to Shine is a world-wide event – and we, here at Grace, get to be a part of it. So, a student with special needs is invited to get all dressed up and come to Grace on Saturday, February 12 – and drive thru all our parking lots that will be set up with all kinds of awesome stations of music, dancing, lights and more.

The one station that we are inviting families to be a part of is – the “Cheering Station”. Your whole family can create posters, get balloons, dress up in fun costumes – really, whatever you would want someone to do for you – you can do for our special guests. You’ll get a piece of paper like this (hold up the NTS flyer) that you’ll need to give it to your parents to tell them how to sign-up and be part of this special event to show the glory of God!

**MEMORY VERSE**

> Lord my God, you have done many things—
> your wondrous works and your plans for us; none can compare with you.
> if I were to report and speak of them, they are more than can be told.

**Put the memory verse up on the screen and have kids stand up and say it with you – be sure to say the reference. Then have the kids sit down.**

Oh, I just love our memory verse for this month! I know last week we briefly discussed our memory verse but this week I thought we should DIVE into this verse and why it is such a great verse to hide in our hearts!

In fact, as we look more closely at this verse, let’s use the AEIOU method that we have been learning about over the last month. (Invite kids to come up on stage to hold the letters). Let’s see, who remembers what each of these letters stands for? (take answers – cheer for the answers, correct when necessary A - ASK, E - Emphasize, I - Illustrate, O - Other verses, U - Use it). Great job!
And this is just one of the many methods (or a process) you can use to read or study a verse or passage in the Bible! *(thank volunteers and have them sit down).*

Today, let’s focus on the letter A and the letter E as we look at Psalm 40:5. The letter A stands for Ask – so maybe I can get a volunteer to stand up and read our verse loudly and after they read it, let’s ask some questions about what we just read! *(Have a volunteer read it loudly or use the mic).*

To help us understand the passage better, let’s **Ask** some questions!

**Question 1:** Who is the person talking to in this verse (the Lord, my God)

**Question 2:** He’s speaking to the Lord – what else does he call the Lord? (my God)

**Question 3:** What is the writer saying to God here? *(you have done many wonderful things, you have plans for us, none can compare to you, if I had to tell someone else what you’ve done – the list would be too long!)* *(discuss some of these with the kids)*

**Question 4:** Who can compare with God? (No one)

Wow, you did a great job! Now let’s move on to the E – for **Emphasize**! This is where we choose a couple of words in the verse to highlight and talk about what they mean!

Let’s look at the word **MY** – read this part of the verse with me – Lord, MY God. Boy, I love this word! This word my is SO important. This verse doesn’t say, God – who doesn’t know me and is far off. This doesn’t say, God – who is the God of other people. This verse says Lord – MY God! God is a personal God – He is OUR God – He is MY God. He made me, loves me, died for me, and rose again to save me. He is personal. He knows each one of your days and how many hairs you have on your head! He sees you! He knows you – You can boldly say just what this verse is saying – Lord, MY God! Say it with me – “Lord, MY God!”

Let’s look at one more word – Let’s look at the word **NONE**! It says NONE can compare with you. Wow! Doesn’t this just give you a picture of how AMAZING and HOLY God is? Nothing can compare to Him. The Bible says His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts! He created everything with a word! God is set a part! He is Holy! Isn’t that so good to remember? Sometimes when I talk to God I talk to Him like he’s my buddy or pal. And while that is okay, it is good to remember that our God isn’t like us! Our God is ALL powerful, All knowing, and is Present everywhere ALL the time! When I read this part of the verse it makes me just want to pause and Praise Him – there is NONE like Him! In fact, let’s pray right now – “Lord, MY God – NONE can compare to you. I praise you. You are mighty. You are holy. You are mighty. You are our Savior. We praise you right now that there is NOTHING that compares to you. You are our King! You are our God – thank you for being My God. Amen.”

Wow! That was so fun to look a bit more closely at our verse! Let’s stand up and say our memory verse together again! *(Say it in some fun ways – shout it, whisper it, have the boys say it, have the girls, say it, or the front say it, or the back say it). *(If time remains, you could say it one more time and have the kids say some of the words and you say some. For example you say Lord, my _____ and then let the kids say GOD.)*

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P.R.A.Y. & APPLY THE STORY

P.R.A.Y.  Begin your small group time by praying together. Explain: Praying is just another way of talking to God! We can use our normal words to talk to God. God promises to hear us. When I pray, sometimes my mind gets scattered. Does yours? Sometimes I have so many thoughts going through my mind that it’s hard to focus. One thing that really helps me is actually the word PRAY! Each letter of the word PRAY reminds me of something! (Review each letter.)

P is for Pause: We will spend a few moments being still and quiet and focusing on God. Say: “As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center our scattered senses upon the presence of God.” Be still and quiet for about 15 seconds.

R is for Rejoice: This is when we praise God for who He is and thank Him for all He does for us and gives us. Go around the group, inviting the kids to either repeat the phrase, “God, You are faithful; you are with me always.” OR “I praise you for…”

A is for Ask: This is pretty easy for us, right? This is when we ask God to help us with the things that we’re worried or scared about and to help the people in our lives that also need His help. Invite the children to finish the sentence, “God, I ask you to help…”

Y is for Yes: This is us saying “yes” to the things that God is asking us to do. Pray over the children: Father, may we listen to your Holy Spirit throughout this week as you speak to us. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

Discussion & Bible Skills:

(K-1st) Open up your own Bible to John 4.
(2nd grade & older) Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to John 4.

Remind the kids that the Book of John was written by John, Jesus’ disciple and friend, not John the Baptist. Explain that Jesus traveled through the land of Samaria on His way to Galilee from Judea.

(Select the questions that are appropriate for your group.)

REVIEW & APPLY

- What did Jesus ask for when He first saw the Samaritan woman? (a drink of water, Jn 4:7)
- What did Jesus say would happen to a person who drinks the living water? (He will never thirst again. It will become a well in him. He will have eternal life; John 4:14)
- Where did Jesus say people will worship God? (anywhere, in spirit and truth; John 4:23-24)
- What is the living water Jesus spoke about? Guide kids to see that the living water is a picture of what the Holy Spirit is like. When we believe the gospel, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live within us. He helps us to love and obey God and fills our lives with joy and love so that we can “overflow” joy and love onto other people.
- What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? Discuss how everyone worships something, but only believers worship the one true God. Point out that worshiping in spirit means that our very core, including our emotions, is involved in worshiping God. Explain that worshiping in truth means we worship the true God when we understand the wonderful truth of what He has done for us.
- How can we receive “living water”? Remind the kids that the Bible teaches everyone who believes the gospel will be saved. Help them understand that when we believe the gospel, we...
repent of sin and love God. God forgives our sin, gives us new hearts, and sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us obey God out of love.

- What is living water? Where does it come from? Guide kids to recall that Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman. The living water Jesus was talking about is the Holy Spirit. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Him. He saves us from our sins and gives us eternal life. (Option: Read John 7:37-39.)

- Why is sharing your testimony important? Help kids recognize the power of the Samaritan woman’s testimony. She told others in her town what Jesus had done, and they believed in Him. Emphasize that everyone can tell others what God has done in his or her life. Jesus calls us to build relationships with others and tell them the good news of the gospel. (Option: Read 1 John 4:13-15.)

- What are some ways you can show love to others? How can you remember to put others first? Allow kids to share their ideas for practically serving others. Suggest kids paint one fingernail a bright color, wear their watch upside-down, apply a sticker to a place they’ll see frequently (such as the toe of a shoe). When kids see the paint, watch, or sticker, they can remember to live with an others-first attitude. (Option: Read 1 John 4:11.)