

# “I Was Thirsty...”

Level A

**The Woman at the Well in Samaria**  
**John 4:5-15**

Ages 3-6

**Series Theme:** You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.

**Lesson Focus:** Our minds need “living water”—truth from the Word—just as our bodies need physical water.

**Reading Summary:** Jesus stopped at Jacob’s well in Sychar on a journey through Samaria. Seeing a Samaritan woman approach, Jesus asked for a drink of water. She was surprised because Jews did not usually talk to Samaritans. Jesus replied, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” She asked how He could draw water from the deep well. He answered that whoever drank water from that well would thirst again, “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst,” because the water would become “a fountain springing up into everlasting life.”

<b>Lesson 2</b>		<b>Materials Supplied</b>	<b>Materials Needed</b>
<b>1. Welcome Warm-up Activity</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Thirsty Sponge</b> directions p. 2	one or two small pieces of dry sponge, shallow container with small amount of water in it
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	<b>Read the Word and Talk About It</b>	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 2	Bible or copy of John 4:5-15
<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	<b>Project</b> make a miniature “Word” with a cover that shows a fountain	<b>Fountain of Everlasting Life</b> directions p. 3 <i>Fountain of Everlasting Life</i> p. 5	blank paper, light-colored crayons, blue water-based paint wash, brushes, stapler <i>optional:</i> hairdryer to speed up paint drying, red ribbon to use as Word markers
	<b>Activity</b> build Jacob’s well from paper grocery bags; get water from the well as a quotation is read from the Word	<b>Water from the Well</b> directions pp. 3-4 <i>Water from the Well Quotations</i> p. 6	brown paper grocery bags, newspaper or more bags for stuffing, stapler, big bowl of water, ladle (or cup for dipping water), a cup for each child
	<b>Coloring Picture</b>	<b>Jesus at the Well</b> p. 7	crayons, markers or colored pencils
<b>4. Wrap It Up</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Memory Verse</b> introduce the memory verse for the week	<b>Memory Verse</b> <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 8	

# 1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

## Thirsty Sponge

*Supplies needed:* one to two small dry pieces of sponge, container with just a little water in it

Pass around a dry sponge. Encourage the children to feel it and see how many words they can use to describe it, e.g. hard, scratchy, dry, rough, solid, etc. Put the sponges in the container with the water and watch them soak it up. (*Hint:* if you use just a little water the children can observe the water level going down as the sponges soak it up.) Once the sponge is wet, squeeze out excess water and pass it around again. Encourage the children to feel it and see how many words they can use to describe it, e.g. moist, wet, soft, squishy, bendable, etc.

1. How is the sponge different? What can you do with the wet sponge that you couldn't do before?
2. Our minds are like sponges. Sometimes we can be stubborn and hard, and then if our parents or teachers talk to us, we can become softer, and treat others more kindly, say sorry, or forgive.
3. The water that softens the sponge is like truth from the Lord's Word. When we soak up true ideas from the Word our hearts can become softer and more loving toward others.
4. Our story today is about two people who were thirsty—Jesus, and a woman from Samaria.

## 2. Focus on the Word

**Read:** John 4:5-15. Many teaching pictures are available online, e.g. [www.bitly.com/SMJohn4](http://www.bitly.com/SMJohn4).

**This story happened in a place called Samaria. Let's all say "Samaria." The people living in Samaria were distant relatives of the people living in Judea, where the Lord was born. One of the differences between Judeans and Samaritans was that the Samaritans only had the first five books of the Word. (Optional: hold up a copy of the Word and show the children the first five books. Look at all the other parts of the Word they did not have.) They did not have many important ideas about the Lord.**

**Who did the Lord talk to?** A woman who was coming to the well.

**What did the Lord ask for?** A drink of water from the well.

**Why was the woman surprised?** Because Samaritans and Jews did not usually talk to each other.

**What kind of water did the Lord say He could give her?** Living water. Living water means true ideas that show us the way to heaven. True ideas from the Lord's Word can help clean our thoughts just as water can clean our bodies and help them work properly. When we do not know true ideas from the Word our mind is like a dry sponge. Remember how much more useful the wet sponge was? Our minds are like wet sponges when we have the ideas we need to keep our thoughts clean.

**Our bodies need water at every moment. We know when we do not have enough water because we become thirsty. If we take a drink of water we are not thirsty any more.**

**Our minds get "thirsty" too. They need "living water" from the Word. They need true ideas that teach us how to live to receive heavenly happiness. We must first learn what is true so we can do what is right. The woman in our story needed living water because she did not have an important part of the Word that could teach her how to live.**

**Did you notice that the Lord asked the woman to give *Him* a drink? The Lord asks us to love Him, and do what He teaches in the Word, because He wants to give us the happiness of heaven more than anything else! And the Lord wants us to share that happiness by sharing the ideas from His Word with others.**

# 3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

## Choice

### Fountain of Everlasting Life

The Word is a source for true ideas that can satisfy our spiritual thirst during life on earth and to eternity in heaven. We can go to this "well" again and again. It is where we can meet the Lord, get to know Him and learn how to be useful. Children will make a miniature copy of the Word whose outer cover is a picture of a fountain.

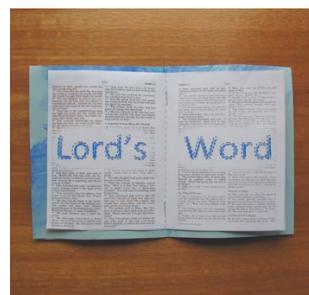
1. Each of you will make a small copy of the Word with a cover that looks like a fountain. This is because truths in the Word are like water that sparkles in a fountain. The truths show us the way to heaven, where the Lord can bless us forever.
2. Give each child a blank piece of paper and some light colored crayons. Show them how to draw lines like a fountain, shooting up from the bottom of the page and then dropping down again.
3. Next we will paint our fountain page blue. Hand out paint brushes and blue water color wash to share. Encourage use of large strokes to cover the page. Set pages aside to dry in a sunny or warm spot. *Optional:* speed up drying with a hairdryer.
4. Give each child a *Fountain of Everlasting Life* page (p. 5) and a crayon. Show them how to fill in the lines to write "Lord's Word."
5. Fold the paper in half and then in half again to make a book. "Lord's Word" should be on the center pages of the book.
6. When the cover is dry, fold it in half, paint side out, then in half again.
7. Place the printed pages inside the book cover and use a stapler to fasten them together.
8. *Optional:* give each child a piece of ribbon to use as a marker.

## Choice

### Water from the Well

The Lord's Word is like a well containing the water of life—true ideas that satisfy our spiritual thirst. Children create a "well" using grocery bags and act out going to the well for a cup of water. They receive a "drink" of the water of everlasting life at the same time by hearing a true idea from the Lord's Word.

1. How do you get a drink of water? Most people get water from a tap or faucet today. But when the Lord was on earth there were no faucets. People would walk a long way to get water from a spring or river. They might also go to wells to get fresh water from deep in the ground. The woman in our story went to a well for water. Wells were protected by large rocks.
2. We are going to make a well. Instead of rocks we are going to use bags. We will start by putting crumpled paper (or crumpled bags, etc.) into



#### Materials Needed for Each Child

blank piece of paper, light colored crayons, blue water-color wash, paintbrush, copy of *Fountain of Everlasting Life*, p. 5, stapler  
*optional:* 8" (20cm) red ribbon to use as Word marker, hairdryer to share

#### Prepare in Advance

Mix blue watercolor wash into shallow containers that will not spill easily. Print copies of *Fountain of Everlasting Life*, p. 5 for each child. Trim off edges with scissors or a paper cutter.

#### Materials Needed

*Water from the Well Quotations* p. 6, six to twelve brown paper grocery bags (or plastic bags), newspaper or more bags to use as filler, stapler, duct tape, large bowl, water, ladle, cup for each child

*Smaller Option:* For a smaller well, use paper lunch bags and build the well on a table. You could also use large cardboard or wooden building blocks.

#### Prepare in Advance

See next page.

## Water from the Well *continued*

the bags. When the bags are full, staple them shut.

3. With the children's help, create a circular well around a bowl of water using the bags. Secure the bags in place using duct tape. For a deeper well, add another layer of bags on top and secure with tape.
4. Give each child a cup.
5. Line the children up at the well. Tell them that people waited in lines and took turns getting water from wells for their families and their animals.
6. Scoop water from the well using a ladle or an extra cup and pour it into each child's cup. As you pour the water for each child, read a verse from the *Water from the Well Quotations* (p. 6).



### Prepare in Advance

Clear a space for the activity. Turn grocery bags inside out to hide writing. Depending on your group, you may want to fill the bags ahead of time.

### New Church Concept Living Waters

"Living waters" are often mentioned in the Word, and by them are meant truths that come to us from the Lord and are received. These are living, because the Lord is Life itself.... The Lord also...opens the spiritual part of our mind, and imparts to us the affection for truth; and the spiritual affection of truth is the very life of heaven within us. *Apocalypse Explained* 483

### Materials Needed

copies of *Jesus at the Well* p. 7; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

### Choice

### Coloring Picture: Jesus at the Well

Hand out copies of *Jesus at the Well* (p. 7) and invite the children to color it.

## 4. Wrap It Up

### Memory Verse

We are building a Memory Verse of Matthew 25:35-36, phrase by phrase each lesson. Review phrase one and teach phrase two, below. The recitation has been set to music with actions for easy learning. Watch online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song/>. This sing-along video repeats the song and actions three times.

**For I was hungry and you gave Me food;  
I was thirsty and you gave Me drink.**

**Matthew 25:35**

### Closing

The Lord wants to give us the happiness of heaven more than anything else! He gives us His Word so we will know *how* to be happy, and He wants us to share that happiness with others.

**Give Parent Notes (p. 8) to children as they leave.**



## Water from the Well Quotations

<p>Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.</p> <p>Revelation 22:17</p>	<p>Drink from it, all of you.</p> <p>Matthew 26:27</p>	<p>Bring water to him who is thirsty.</p> <p>Isaiah 21:14</p>
<p>I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.</p> <p>Revelation 21:6</p>	<p>You gave them water for their thirst.</p> <p>Nehemiah 9:20</p>	<p>I will pour water on him who is thirsty.</p> <p>Isaiah 44:3</p>
<p>I was thirsty and you gave Me drink.</p> <p>Matthew 25:35</p>	<p>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.</p> <p>Matthew 5:6</p>	<p>Whoever drinks of the water I shall give him will never thirst.</p> <p>John 4:14</p>
<p>Let him who thirsts come.</p> <p>Revelation 22:17</p>	<p>Truth itself is living water.</p> <p><i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 2702.5</p>	<p>They shall neither hunger nor thirst.</p> <p>Isaiah 49:10</p>
<p>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.</p> <p>Isaiah 12:3</p>	<p>The Word is the spring...for living water.</p> <p><i>True Christianity</i> 777</p>	<p>Living fountains of water mean truths that are from the Lord.</p> <p><i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 2702.6</p>



Jesus at the Well

## Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

### PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,  
 We are learning about serving others. Today we learned about a time when the Lord spoke to a woman at a well and told her that she would never thirst if she drank the water He offered. We have added a new phrase to our Memory Verse. We encourage you to help your child remember the verses by repeating the phrase below in the morning, at mealtimes, or before bed. You can see a song with actions at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song/>.

#### Memory Verse

For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. (Matthew 25:35)

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