

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	Only Jesus can truly satisfy
Bible Reading	John 4:4-43
Preparation	<p>Read John 4:1-43 Jesus here goes out of his way to find a woman who was from a people despised by the Jews, so that he could offer her eternal life. He uses the picture of “living water” to describe this, with the visual aid of the well nearby. This would have been more meaningful to a woman who had to trek to the well everyday to top up water supplies, than to us in the modern world who have water “on tap”. Jesus doesn’t offer a temporary fix, but an ultimate solution that lasts for eternity.</p> <p>Take home message: We often look in the wrong places for something that can satisfy us, but only Jesus can ultimately do this.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Random objects for acting out the scenario described.</p>
Getting Started	Act out someone trying to do a job, and someone “helping” by giving them things that they don’t need (e.g. fixing a bike and being handed flowers, strawberries, buttons, etc). Talk about these being nice things, but not what is needed.
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. A surprising place (John 4:1-6)</p> <p>2. A surprising person (John 4 4:7-9)</p> <p>3. A surprising conversation (John 4:10-18)</p>	<p>Read John 4:1-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus had been in Judea and was headed for Galilee (Show places on a map) ➤ Jews travelling between these places would often take a long way around because they wanted to avoid Samaria (Jews and Samaritans did not get on) • Q: What route to did Jesus choose? Find Sychar on the map. • Q: What time of day was it? How would you feel after travelling all morning in a hot, desert country? <p>Read John 4:7-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Who approached Jesus while he was resting by the well? What did Jesus ask? ➤ This might seem like an obvious thing to happen (Jesus would be thirsty, the woman had access to water). But it was about the most unlikely thing that could ever happen at that time! She was a Samaritan and Jesus a Jew. And she was a woman (who were considered to be beneath the notice of men). • Q: What was the woman’s reaction to Jesus’ question? <p>➤ Then Jesus said something even more surprising.</p> <p>Read John 4:10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Why was this surprising? ➤ Jesus had started off by asking the woman for a drink, then told her that <i>He</i> could give <i>her</i> something! <p>Read John 4:11-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: How did the woman respond? ➤ The woman was only looking at what she could see (Jesus didn’t have a bucket). She couldn’t understand what Jesus was saying because he was talking about something that she couldn’t physically see. • Q: Have you come across this in trying to explain the gospel? “I can’t see it and you can’t prove it, so I don’t believe it”?

<p>4. A surprising offer (John 4:19-24)</p>	<p>Read John 4:13-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Q: What was Jesus' answer?</i> ➤ Jesus was offering her something much greater than what she could physically see. Water from this well helps deal with thirst for a time, but eventually you get thirsty again. What Jesus can offer satisfies forever. <p>Read John 4:15-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clearly the woman still didn't really understand what Jesus was offering. She still could only see the well and water in front of her. • <i>Q: Why did Jesus mention here about her husbands?</i> ➤ He was showing that he knows everything, proving that he is God and therefore able to make good on his promise. ➤ He also showed that he knew the woman was trying to find something to satisfy her and failing. This was because she was looking in the wrong place! She was looking for a person (she had tried 6 different men!). They all failed to satisfy her because ultimately people can't satisfy us. ➤ We all know deep down that we need something. God is the only one who can make us truly happy. Nothing else can completely satisfy us. God made us to have a relationship with him. If we miss out on this, and try and fill the hole with something else, it will always feel disappointing in the end. <p>Read John 4:19-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Why do you think the woman started asking questions about "our ancestors" and "you Jews" here?</i> ➤ Maybe the woman felt uncomfortable about this "prophet" who knew everything about her. If she accepted what he was saying and what he was offering to her, it also meant accepting her faults and need of him – so she tried to distance him. • <i>Q: How did Jesus respond?</i> ➤ Jesus knew all about this woman, and still freely offered her this gift of belonging to God's family and eternal life. He offers this gift to everyone, regardless of background and what we have done. <p>Read John 7:37-38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Who does Jesus offer this living water to?</i> <p>Read John 4:25-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finally, the woman realised who Jesus really was. She believed in him and brought lots of her friends to hear Jesus also, and they believed too!
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What kinds of things/ people / experiences are we tempted to try and find satisfaction in? (e.g. family, holidays, possessions, etc).</i> • <i>Q: These can be good things, but why can they not completely satisfy us? (Relate back to "Getting Started" activity).</i> ➤ All of these things are temporary. Everything eventually comes to an end. They also can't fulfil what we were primarily made for (relationship with God). • <i>Q: Why can God fully satisfy us? How can we remind ourselves about this?</i>
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PHILIPPIANS 3:8 <i>I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.</i></p>

<p>3. Jesus gives eternal life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ So, I said to him, “You have nothing to get the water out of the well with – it is a very deep well! How are you going to get the water?” . I saw that he didn’t have a bucket. Of course, he couldn’t get any water out of the well with no bucket! – <i>Show the bucket to help make the point</i> ➤ Then the man said something that was even stranger! He said, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.” ➤ <i>Q: Does that sound good to you? Drinking something that means you won’t ever get thirsty again?</i> ➤ I thought that sounded great! No more long walks to the well or having to carry the heavy bucket of water back home again! So, I said to the man, “Give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to get water”. ➤ Then the man told me who he was – can you guess? ➤ The man I was talking to at the well that day... was Jesus! The one we had been waiting and waiting for! God’s chosen King! I was talking to Jesus! ➤ <i>Q: How do you think I felt when I found out I was talking to Jesus?</i> ➤ Then Jesus told me that he knew all about my life – even though I had never met him before. He knew about my husband, even though he had never met him! ➤ So, then I knew that Jesus must be God. Because only God could know all those things about me, without having met me before. ➤ Jesus explained to me that when he said he could give me water, he wasn’t talking about the water from the well, that you could drink. He was using water as a picture to tell me that he could give me eternal life. ➤ Water can keep you alive for a while, but it can’t keep you alive forever. One day, even if you drink lots of water, you will die. <p>Read John 4:14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ But Jesus can give you life that goes on forever and ever and ever. ➤ Just like having a drink that means you never get thirsty ever again <p>Read John 7:37-38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Who does Jesus offer this “living water” to?</i> ➤ Anyone who comes to Jesus can have this living water – it is for everybody.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What sorts of things do you like to do? Who do you like to spend time with? What games/toys do you like?</i> ➤ These are all really good things. But none of these things will last forever. Eventually things break or come to an end. (Relate back to “Getting Started”) ➤ Jesus is the only one who can give us something that goes on forever and ever. He is the only one that can give us life that will never end. That’s why knowing Jesus is better than anything else.
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