

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	Jesus' word is true and powerful and can be believed
Bible Reading	John 4:43-54
Preparation	<p>Read John 4:43-54 After spending a couple of days in Samaria, Jesus continues his journey to Galilee, the place where he grew up. On the way, Jesus predicts the reception he will receive (John 4:44). However, after predicting that he would not be received with honour, we are told that the Galileans welcomed him on his arrival (John 4:45). The account that follows explains this apparent contradiction. The Galileans welcomed, but did not honour Jesus. They welcomed him only because of what they expected to see and receive from him (further miracles). They did not worship him as the Son of God. This also explains Jesus' dealings with the official with the son who was dying. He challenges the official to believe his words alone, rather than performing a visible miracle. Later in his gospel, John records Jesus' words to Thomas (John 20:29), "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". The heart of Christian faith is belief in the words of God. While experiences and feelings are important, they are not what we base our faith on. Our faith is based on the unchanging and trustworthy words of God.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>Jesus' words are true and powerful – believe and trust his words</i></p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": Have a map showing Cana, Galilee and Sychar available for use during the lesson.</p>
Getting Started	Talk about things you believe even though you haven't seen or experienced for yourself (e.g. the world is round, someone loves you, etc) Why do you believe it? (because you trust them and what they say).
Finding Out 1. Jesus welcomed because of his signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recap the previous lesson (John 4:4-42). Who did Jesus meet? What did he offer her? Why is what Jesus offers so much better than anything else? ➤ After two days, Jesus left and travelled to Galilee <p>Read John 4:43-46</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Show Cana on the map • Q: <i>Where did Jesus grow up (show Nazareth – also in Galilee)</i> • Q: <i>How did the Galileans feel about Jesus returning home? Why?</i> ➤ They "welcomed him" because they had seen all that Jesus had done. They had seen the miracles he performed in Jerusalem. • Q: <i>What else had Jesus done in Cana (v.46)?</i> • Q: <i>What did Jesus say about what Galileans really thought about him? (v44)</i> <p>Read John 2:23-25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>So why did they "welcome" Jesus?</i> ➤ They didn't honour Jesus, but they were glad he had come because he could do good tricks! He was entertaining. He might even be able to help them. ➤ They didn't really think he was the Son of God who should be worshipped and honoured – or someone they could trust their lives to and listen to.

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	Jesus' word is true and powerful and can be believed
Bible Reading	John 4:43-54
Preparation	<p>Read John 4:43-54 After spending a couple of days in Samaria, Jesus continues his journey to Galilee, the place where he grew up. On the way, Jesus predicts the reception he will receive (John 4:44). However, after predicting that he would not be received with honour, we are told that the Galileans welcomed him on his arrival (John 4:45). The account that follows explains this apparent contradiction. The Galileans welcomed, but did not honour Jesus. They welcomed him only because of what they expected to see and receive from him (further miracles). They did not worship him as the Son of God. This also explains Jesus' dealings with the official with the son who was dying. He challenges the official to believe his words alone, rather than performing a visible miracle. Later in his gospel, John records Jesus' words to Thomas (John 20:29), "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". The heart of Christian faith is belief in the words of God. While experiences and feelings are important, they are not what we base our faith on. Our faith is based on the unchanging and trustworthy words of God.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>Jesus' words are true and powerful – believe and trust his words</i></p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": A closed box with things in it. Have a picture of a well (or the craft activity from the previous lesson) for use during the lesson. Also a map with Sychar, Cana and Capernaum on it.</p>
Getting Started	Tell the children you are going to tell them something true. Tell them what is in your box. Ask them if they believe you? If they say "yes", talk about how we believe what people tell us, even if we can't see it, because we trust the person to tell the truth. If they say "no", show them the contents to prove you were telling the truth. Talk about how you can trust what someone tells you, even if you can't see it, if they prove they can be trusted (so if you asked them again, they would know you were telling the truth, and could believe what you say, even if they can't see it).
Finding Out 1. A man asks Jesus for help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Recap last lesson. Q: Who did Jesus meet and talk to (show a picture of a well or the craft activity from last lesson)? What did Jesus say that he could give her? Why is that better than anything else?</i> ➤ After Jesus had stayed there for 2 days, he continued his journey to Cana ➤ When he arrived in Cana (show on map), a crowd of people came to see him. They were all very excited that Jesus had come to their town. They had heard lots about Jesus and all the amazing things he had done. ➤ They thought Jesus was someone they could watch do tricks and listen to his stories – like you would watch a show on TV! They didn't understand that Jesus wasn't just someone to come and watch – he was the Son of God! They needed to believe that he was God and trust what he said to them was true, not just come and watch his tricks. ➤ One day, a man came up to speak to Jesus.

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	Jesus' word is true and powerful and can be believed
Bible Reading	John 4:43-54
Preparation	<p>Read John 4:43-54 After spending a couple of days in Samaria, Jesus continues his journey to Galilee, the place where he grew up. On the way, Jesus predicts the reception he will receive (John 4:44). However, after predicting that he would not be received with honour, we are told that the Galileans welcomed him on his arrival (John 4:45). The account that follows explains this apparent contradiction. The Galileans welcomed, but did not honour Jesus. They welcomed him only because of what they expected to see and receive from him (further miracles). They did not worship him as the Son of God. This also explains Jesus' dealings with the official with the son who was dying. He challenges the official to believe his words alone, rather than performing a visible miracle. Later in his gospel, John records Jesus' words to Thomas (John 20:29), "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". The heart of Christian faith is belief in the words of God. While experiences and feelings are important, they are not what we base our faith on. Our faith is based on the unchanging and trustworthy words of God.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>Jesus' words are true and powerful – believe and trust his words</i></p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": A closed box with things in it. Have a picture of a well (or the craft activity from the previous lesson) for use during the lesson</p>
Getting Started	<p>Tell the children you are going to tell them something true. Tell them what is in your box. Ask them if they believe you? If they say "yes", talk about how we believe what people tell us, even if we can't see it, because we trust the person to tell the truth. If they say "no", show them the contents to prove you were telling the truth. Talk about how you can trust what someone tells you, even if you can't see it, if they prove they can be trusted (so if you asked them again, they would know you were telling the truth, and could believe what you say, even if they can't see it).</p>
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. A man asks Jesus for help</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Recap last lesson. Q: Who did Jesus meet and talk to (show a picture of a well or the craft activity from last lesson)? What did Jesus say that he could give her?</i> ➤ <i>After Jesus had stayed there for 2 days, he continued his journey to Galilee</i> ➤ <i>When he arrived in Galilee, a crowd of people came to see him. They were all very excited that Jesus had come to their town. They had heard lots about Jesus and all the amazing things he had done.</i> ➤ <i>They thought Jesus was someone they could watch do tricks and listen to his stories – like you would watch a show on TV! They didn't understand that Jesus wasn't just someone to come and watch – he was the Son of God!</i> ➤ <i>One day, a man came up to speak to Jesus.</i> <p>Read John 4:46b-47</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was wrong with the man's son?</i> • <i>Q: How do you think the man felt?</i> • <i>Q: What did the man want Jesus to do?</i>

