## **Sunday school lesson - Upper Primary**

BIG IDEA	Jesus' word is true and powerful and can be believed
Bible Reading	John 4:43-54
Preparation	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.  Take home message: Jesus' words are true and powerful – believe and trust his words  Prepare for "Getting Started": Have a map showing Cana, Galilee and Sychar available for use during the lesson
Getting Started	for use during the lesson.  Talk about things you believe even though you haven't seen or experienced for
Getting Started	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	Recap the previous lesson (John 4:4-42). Who did Jesus meet? What did he offer
1. Jesus welcomed	her? Why is what Jesus offers so much better than anything else?
because of his signs	After two days, Jesus left and travelled to Galilee
	Read John 4:43-46
	Show Cana on the map
	Q: Where did Jesus grow up (show Nazareth – also in Galilee)
	<ul> <li>Q: How did the Galileans feel about Jesus returning home? Why?</li> <li>They "welcomed him" because they had seen all that Jesus had done. They had seen the miracles he performed in Jerusalem.</li> </ul>
	Q: What else had Jesus done in Cana (v.46)?
	<ul> <li>Q: What did Jesus say about what Galileans really thought about him? (v44)</li> </ul>
	Read John 2:23-25
	Q: So why did they "welcome" Jesus?
	> 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.
	<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>

	They only wanted Jesus if he could do a miracle for them.
2. A challenge to	Read John 4:46-47
trust Jesus' words	Q: Who came to Jesus for help?
	> A royal official. Point out on map where Capernaum is. He would have had to
	travel to see Jesus (over mountains)
	Q: What did he want Jesus to do?
	Q: How would you expect Jesus to answer?
	Read John 4:48
	Q: How did Jesus answer? Why?
	> Jesus is addressing the whole crowd. He knows what is in their hearts. He is trying
	to get them to realise that they just want Jesus for his miracles.
	Read John 4:49-50
	> Jesus still didn't go with the man. The man had to trust Jesus' words. Can Jesus be
	trusted to do as he says? Are his words enough?
3. Jesus proves his	Read John 4:50-54
words can be	Q: Imagine the father walking the long journey back home. How would he be
trusted	feeling, not knowing what he would find when he got home?
	Q: What happened? What was the exact time the boy was healed?
	> Jesus showed that his words are enough. You can trust his words, even if you
	don't get to see amazing miracles. His words are true and powerful.
So What?	Q: Do we get to see Jesus face to face? Do we get to see water turned into wine?
	Or storms being calmed?
	We don't normally get to see amazing miracles, but we do have Jesus' words.
	Read John 20:29
	• Q: What are some examples of Jesus' words that we can trust (even if we don't
	see physical evidence)? (e.g. don't have to fear death, he forgives us when we
	repent, he loves us, one day the world will come to an end and be judged)
	Q: Are you waiting for something dramatic to happen before you trust Jesus? His
	words are enough to trust him.
Memory Verse	PHILIPPIANS 3:8 I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of
	knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

## Sunday school lesson - Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	Jesus' word is true and powerful and can be believed
Bible Reading	John 4:43-54
Preparation	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.  Take home message: Jesus' words are true and powerful – believe and trust his words
	<b>Prepare</b> 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.
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> <li>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?</li> <li>After Jesus had stayed there for 2 days, he continued his journey to Cana</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>One day, a man came up to speak to Jesus.</li> </ul>

	Read John 4:46-47
	• Q: What was wrong with the man's son? How do you think the man felt?
	Q: What did the man want Jesus to do?
	> The man lived in Capernaum (show on map). You would have to walk all day to
	get to Capernaum from where Jesus was.
	> The man wanted Jesus to go home with him because he believed that if Jesus
	came to see his son, then Jesus would be able to make his son better.
	Q: Do you think Jesus could make the man's son better?
2. A challenge to	Q: What do you think Jesus said to the man?
trust Jesus' words	> Jesus didn't go with the man!
	> Instead, he said to the crowd of people, "You just want me to do tricks for you.
	You don't really believe the things I am telling you."
	Read John 4:49
	Q: Do you think Jesus went with the man then?
	• Q: Was it because Jesus didn't care about the man or his son?
	> Jesus did care about the man and his son. But he also knew it was important that
	all the people understood who he really was and believed what he said.
	> So instead of going with the man, this is what he said to him.
	Read John 4:50a
	➤ He was saying to the man, "You don't have to see me do tricks to believe what I
	am saying is true. You can trust what I say."
3. Jesus proves his	<ul> <li>Q: Do you think the man believed what Jesus said?</li> </ul>
words can be	He did believe what Jesus said! Even though he couldn't see his son (because he
trusted	was very far away), he believed that his son was now better, because Jesus had
	told him he was better.
	> The man walked all the way home. It took him all day to walk home.
	<ul> <li>Q: What do you think he found when he got home?</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>His son was all better! He was running around and laughing and playing. It was</li> </ul>
	exactly as Jesus said. Even though he was far away, Jesus had spoken a word and
	straight away the son had got better.
	> Jesus showed that you can trust his words
So What?	Q: Can you see Jesus?
	> We can't see Jesus, but just like the man we learnt about, we can still trust that
	what he says is true.
	> Q: What has Jesus said to us in the bible, that we can believe is true?
	> Jesus tells us that if we say sorry to him, he will forgive us. He also tells us that
	only people who believe what he says will get to be with him in heaven. We can
	believe his words because we know they are true.
Memory Verse	PHILIPPIANS 3:8 I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of
	knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
Memory Verse	believe his words because we know they are true.  PHILIPPIANS 3:8 I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of

## Sunday school lesson - Pre-School

BIG IDEA	Jesus' word is true and powerful and can be believed
Bible Reading	John 4:43-54
Preparation	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.  Take home message: Jesus' words are true and powerful – believe and trust his words  Prepare for "Getting Started": A closed box with things in it. Have a picture of a well (or the graft activity from the province lesson) for use during the lesson.
Catting Stantad	(or the craft activity from the previous lesson) for use during the lesson
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	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?
for help	<ul> <li>After Jesus had stayed there for 2 days, he continued his journey to Galilee</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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!</li> <li>One day, a man came up to speak to Jesus.</li> <li>Read John 4:46b-47</li> <li>Q: What was wrong with the man's son?</li> <li>Q: How do you think the man felt?</li> <li>Q: What did the man want Jesus to do?</li> </ul>

	knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
Memory Verse	PHILIPPIANS 3:8 I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of
	see him.
	<ul> <li>Pray that the children would learn to trust Jesus' words, even though they can't</li> </ul>
	heaven. We can believe his words because we know they are true.
	tells us that only people who believe what he says will get to be with him in
	For example, Jesus tells us that if we say sorry to him, he will forgive us. He also
	what he says is true.
So wilat:	<ul> <li>Q: Can you see Jesus?</li> <li>We can't see Jesus, but just like the man we learnt about, we can still trust that</li> </ul>
So What?	Jesus showed that you can trust his words  Or Can you say Jacus?
	straight away the son had got better.
	exactly as Jesus said. Even though he was far away, Jesus had spoken a word and
	➤ His son was all better! He was running around and laughing and playing. It was
	Q: What do you think he found when he got home?
	> The man walked all the way home. It took him all day to walk home.
	told him he was better.
trusted	was very far away), he believed that his son was now better, because Jesus had
words can be	➤ He did believe what Jesus said! Even though he couldn't see his son (because he
3. Jesus proves his	Q: Do you think the man believed what Jesus said?
	am saying is true. You can trust what I say."
	➤ He was saying to the man, "You don't have to see me do tricks to believe what I
	Read John 4:50a
	<ul> <li>So instead of going with the man, this is what he said to him.</li> </ul>
	important that all the people understood who he really was.
	<ul> <li>Q. Do you trink sesus went with the man then?</li> <li>No, he didn't! Jesus cared about the man and his sick son. But he also knew it was</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Q: Do you think Jesus went with the man then?</li> </ul>
	The man really wanted Jesus to come and heal his son, so he asked Jesus again, "Please! Come with me or my son will die!"
	You don't really believe the things I am telling you."  The man really wanted losus to some and heal his son, so he asked losus again.
	Instead, he said to the crowd of people, "You just want me to do tricks for you.
trust Jesus' words	> Jesus didn't go with the man!
2. A challenge to	Q: What do you think Jesus said to the man?
	Q: Do you think Jesus could make the man's son better?
	came to see his son, then Jesus would be able to make his son better.
	> The man wanted Jesus to go home with him because he believed that if Jesus
	breakfast until after dinner) to get to Capernaum from where Jesus was.
	> The man lived in Capernaum. You would have to walk all day (from before