

<b>4.21 Woman at the Well</b> <b>Unit 5: Invitation to Abundant Life</b>	
John 4:1-42	Jan. 21 & 25
<b>Unit Verse:</b> “For this is how God loved the world. He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16	<b>The Point &amp; Call Back:</b> Jesus calls us to Abundant Life

**STORY SUMMARY: The Woman at the Well**

Jesus and the woman at the well talk about “living water” that will quench thirst forever. Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah to the woman. This forever changes the Samaritan woman, and she testifies to others that Jesus is the Messiah, which in turn causes them to believe. Jesus continues to invite others into the abundant life that he gives. Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. In biblical times, wells provided more than just water to villages. Wells were also a place where people would gather and talk. It is while at the well that the Samaritan woman meets Jesus and discovers who he is. At the well, Jesus breaks social conventions by not only talking to a woman, but to a Samaritan. As the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman progress, we see several different conversations between Jesus and the woman. Each of these conversations reveals to the Samaritan woman a little more about Jesus, helping her see that Jesus is the Messiah and encourages her to testify to this revelation with others in her town.

**THE POINT: Even outsiders have access to God’s abundant grace through Jesus Christ.**

In developing a relationship with the Samaritan woman, Jesus shows again that he is not concerned with someone’s reputation. The woman at the well has numerous strikes against her: she is a woman she is a Samaritan, she has had many husbands, and she is living with a man who is not her husband. But Jesus welcomes her into relationship without judgment. This encounter results in her sharing the story of her amazing experience with others.

**BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: Samaritans**

The Samaritans are a religious and ethnic group mentioned in several parts of the Bible. The differences between Samaritans and the Israelites led to a strong divide between the two groups that can be traced back to Old Testament times. The Jews considered the Samaritans unclean and refused to speak to them. The major difference between the two groups comes from the different views each group has on how to worship God. The image of the Samaritan people introduces New Testament readers to powerful themes and ideas. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), a Samaritan man is the one who loves a neighbor who might not love him back. In today’s story, Jesus talks to a Samaritan woman something that many other Jews would frown upon. Jesus shows us how to love one another, especially those who may be different than us and who we may see as enemies.

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Fellowship**

Welcoming the stranger and the outcast and creating a place of fellowship for all people is one of the fundamental teachings of following Jesus. But sometimes, even Christians struggle to welcome “those” people into their churches. After all, “they” look different than “us.” They dress and act and smell differently. It is easy for us to go out and help people, but how do we react when they come to us?

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers,

In today's story we see Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman. She is searching for something and she has an encounter with Jesus and her life is never the same. Isn't that the way it is for all of us? We meet Jesus and our lives are never the same. We see things differently, we want different things, different things matter more to us. It's truly a new life. The things of this world lose their appeal and we fix our eyes on things of heaven. If you are searching for something go and have an encounter with Jesus. Your life will never be the same again. Isn't it exciting that we get to encourage the youth to have an encounter with Jesus.

Blessings

The Youth Team