

THE WOMAN WHO RAN TO TELL EVERYONE

BIG IDEA:

To help children see that Jesus wants us to share the good news with those who feel forgotten or invisible.

STORY:

The Woman at the Well (John 4:1–42)

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 1:38 (CEV) *"Jesus replied, 'We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come.'"*

OPENING ACTIVITY (5 MIN)

THIRSTY OR NOT?

MATERIALS:

Water pitcher, small cups, and bottle labeled "Living Water."

INSTRUCTIONS:

Pour each child a small cup of water. Ask them to hold it but not drink it.

ASK:

- When were you really thirsty?
- What's the difference between a little thirsty and being desperate?
- What would it mean to be thirsty in your heart?

Let them drink. Show them the bottle labeled "Living Water."

EXPLAIN:

Jesus gives us "living water." That means Jesus gives us love, forgiveness and joy that never run out.

TRANSITION:

Today, we'll meet a woman who was thirsty in her heart—and see how Jesus went out of his way to find her.

INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY (10 MIN)

JOHN 4:1–28

Set a bowl as the "well." Assign students as characters. Alternate between reading and allowing students to act out the story.

• THE SETUP:

Say: Everyone avoided Samaria, but Jesus went anyway. When he got tired, he rested by a well.

Read: John 4:3–6

• THE WOMAN:

Say: The woman came to the well alone because she probably felt invisible, like nobody wanted her around.

Read: John 4:6–7

• THE CONVERSATION:

Say: Jesus asked her for a drink of water, but she was surprised that he even talked to her. Jews did not speak to Samaritans. Then, Jesus told her that he gives "living water"—love, forgiveness and joy that never run out.

Read: John 4:13–14

• THE MISSION:

Say: Jesus told the woman that he is the Messiah, the one who came to save us from our sins. She believed him and ran to share the news with her town.

Read: John 4:28

ASK:

Why do you think she left her jar? What was more important than water?

EXPLAIN:

Jesus went to find her. Because he came to her, she became the first missionary in that area!

ASK:

Who today might feel invisible like the woman? What might make it hard to go to them?

READ:

Mark 1:38

TRANSITION:

Let's learn about someone who brings the love of Jesus to people in Louisiana who feel forgotten.

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MISSION STORY (8 MIN)

BOXES FULL OF LIVING WATER

SAY:

In Louisiana, there is a women's prison. A prison is where people go when they've made serious wrong choices. But they still matter to God—and Jesus still loves them.



SHOW A PICTURE OF A PRISON OR LARGE FACILITY

SAY:

The women there are daughters, mothers and grandmothers—real people just like in your family. Some of them feel forgotten.

ASK:

What is it like to feel alone or forgotten?



SHOW A PICTURE OF VOLUNTEERS

SAY:

A minister named Brother DeBusk heard about a way to share Jesus with the women in the prison. He could have thought, "That's not my job." But instead, just like Jesus, he went.

SHOW A BOX:

Brother DeBusk worked with churches and a group of ladies called WMU to pack boxes full of soap, shampoo, lotion, and more for the women so that they could know that Jesus loves them and they are not forgotten.

ASK:

What do you think the ladies feel when they get those boxes?

SHARE BROTHER DEBUSK'S OWN WORDS (SIMPLIFIED FOR CHILDREN):

"When we bring the boxes, faces change. It's like they're getting a big hug from Louisiana Baptists. These are real people. Jesus loves them."

SAY:

Giving to the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering helps people "go" so they can share Jesus's "living water."

CRAFT (15 MIN)

LIVING WATER GIFT BOX

MATERIALS:

Small boxes/bags, crayons/markers, water stickers or droplet cutouts.

SUMMARY:

Each child decorates a box/bag.

EXPLAIN:

Take this home and collect coins for the Georgia Barnette Offering. Each coin will help someone "go" and bring the good news.

GAME (10 MIN)

RUN AND TELL!

MATERIALS:

A bowl ("the well"), two baskets ("towns"), paper water droplets with "Good News" written on them.

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the bowl and droplets in the center of the room. Place the two baskets at opposite ends of the room.
- Divide into two teams. One at a time, players run to the "well", pick up a droplet, and drop it in their "town".
- When you say, "Living Water!"—everyone freezes, and claps once, then continues.
- **Explain:** Just like the woman, we can bring good news of Jesus to our towns.

CLOSING (7 MIN)

LEAVE YOUR JAR

MATERIALS:

Water droplet cutouts, a bowl labeled "The Well."

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child a droplet cutout.
- Ask them to write or draw one person they will tell about Jesus this week.
- Place droplets in the bowl together, making a well full of good news.

CLOSING PRAYER

LEADER NOTES

- Adjust activities based on your class size and ages.
- Consider showing the LCIW story video, available at GeorgiaBarnette.org.
- Display a visible goal poster for your class's Georgia Barnette contributions.



DOWNLOAD MATERIALS AT:
georgiabarnette.org/assets