

Woman at the Well

Teacher Preparation

1. Study **Lesson 7**, pp. 43–49.
 - Scripture **John 4:1–42**
2. **Visuals** to use in class.
 - Memory Verse Visual 6
 - Teaching Visuals **18–21**
3. Have **Focus**, Ls 7 ready to distribute after lesson (1 per student).

Opening Sequence (optional)

Greet teens as they arrive; assistant takes attendance.

Welcome Comments

Prayer Teacher

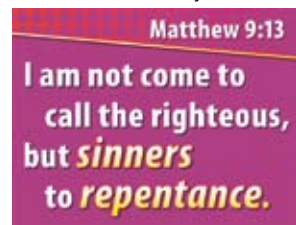
Announcements Notes

Songs *Brighten the Corner* p. 6 #7
He Keeps Me Singing p. 10 #5
Since Jesus Came into My Heart p. 24 #10

Prayer (Choose 1 or 2 teens to pray.)

Memory Verse

Class read 3x. Say verse 2x.



Verse Visual 6

Lesson 7

Jesus must go through Samaria

Jesus and His apostles were in Judea, the southern region of the land of Israel, and He told His apostles that they were going to Galilee, the northern region, “I must needs go through Samaria,” He said. Jesus knew that in Samaria were some people with souls thirsty for the water of life, and He must meet their need.

Samaria was the shortest and most natural way to get from Judea to Galilee, but the Jewish people would not go through Samaria because they so despised the Samaritan people. The Samaritans were hated because they were not full-blooded Jews but a mixture of Jews and other foreign nations, and also because the Samaritans had built a place of worship in Samaria instead of going to Jerusalem to worship.

Jesus sends the apostles into town

As Jesus and His apostles approached the Samaritan village of Sychar around 6 o'clock, they came to Jacob's well, where over fifteen hundred years before this time the patriarch Jacob had dug a well. Jesus sent His disciples into the village of Sychar to buy food while He sat beside Jacob's well.

Jesus talks to a woman at the well



Card 18

Soon a Samaritan woman with a water pot on her head came along the road to draw water from the well. In those days there were no water faucets in the houses, and the women had the job of drawing the water from wells and carrying it home.

Usually the women of a village came as a group for their water in the late afternoon; they talked, laughed, and had a good time together while they drew their water. It was their social hour. But this woman came all by herself at noon because she had a bad reputation in the town of Sychar. The other women gossiped about her and shunned her, so she came to the well alone when she was sure none of the other women would be there.

She could tell at a glance that the Stranger sitting there by the well was a Jew. And since Jews paid no attention to Samaritans, she just ignored Him as she lowered her water jug to fill it with water.

When the woman had finished drawing her water, Jesus spoke to her: *“Give me to drink.”* The woman was amazed that a Jew would ask a Samaritan for anything—usually Jews wouldn't talk to Samaritans at all, and especially not to Samaritan women!

She said, *“How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”*

Jesus replied, *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”*

But she did not understand this—she did not know what Jesus meant. She said, *“Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?”*

Then Jesus began to explain the difference between living water and the ordinary water which was in the well. He said, *“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

The woman was very interested. She wanted some living water so she would not have to keep coming back to the well every day. *“Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”*

Jesus knew there was one subject He must talk with the woman about before He gave her living water. So He told her, *“Go, call thy husband.”*

This startled the woman, and she replied, *“I—I—I have no husband.”* She hung her head, and her face flushed with shame.

“Thou hast well said, I have no husband,” Jesus said. *“For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.”*

She stood there greatly moved, and for a moment did not know what to say. How could this Stranger know the secrets of her life? Who was this that could put His finger on the sin of her life? She blurted out, *“Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.”* (A prophet is one who speaks for God.) She realized that this Man Who knew all about her sin and all the evil of her heart even though He had never met her before—this Man must be sent from God.

The woman became troubled, because her sinful life was a very unpleasant subject. So, hoping to turn the conversation to something not as embarrassing, she asked a question that had long bothered her. *“Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and Ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”*

Jesus explained that it's not where a person worships that really counts, but how he worships. *"The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

Now the woman looked up at Him and wistfully said, *"I know that the Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things."*

How astounded she was when Jesus said, *"I that speak unto thee am he."* He said it so quietly and yet so factually. She believed He really was the Messiah. That explained why He knew all about her and yet offered to give her living water.

She looked into His wonderful eyes and at that very moment, she drank deeply of the living water.

The woman runs into town



Card 19

The woman could hardly wait to tell her friends and neighbors that the promised Messiah had come. She was so excited that, as she rushed back to the city, she left her water pot! For years she had been thirsty for living water, but today as she had come to Jacob's well for ordinary water, she found what all of her life she had longed for—living water, and Jesus Himself was the living water. She believed in Him, but now she must go and tell others what she had found; this was too wonderful to keep to oneself. She must tell her friends, her neighbors, her whole town! They must come and drink of living water also. Christ was the living water Who alone could satisfy. Someone has said, "She left her water pot, and took away the well!"

The disciples return with food

While the woman was returning to the city, the disciples arrived with the food. They were certainly surprised to see that Jesus had been talking to a Samaritan woman, but none

of them dared ask Him why, or what He had been discussing with her. They said to Jesus, *“Master, eat.”* But Jesus, though physically just as tired and hungry as the disciples were, had something more than food on His mind.

“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me,” He told them. *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”* The field that Jesus was talking about is the people of the world. He was saying that people are thirsty for the living water, just like the woman who came to the well. To give them living water is more satisfying than meat to the physical body. He was concerned about the people who did not yet know Him, and He wanted the disciples to be concerned, too. The other Jews may have despised the Samaritans, but not Jesus. He loved them.

The woman tells the townspeople about Jesus

Breathlessly, the woman came to the city, calling to all the people she met, *“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”*



Card 20

7

The people of the city believe on Jesus

Many people of the city were so curious that they decided to see this Man. So, they went out to Jacob’s well to see for themselves, and they believed that Jesus was the Messiah because of what the woman said about Him. They begged Him to stay in their city and



Card 21

teach them about God’s love and forgiveness. For that reason Jesus stayed for two whole days in the city of Sychar, and many more Samaritans believed and opened their hearts to Him. Then they said to the woman who first met Jesus at the

well, *“Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.”*

This woman didn't know much about Jesus, but she told the people all she knew and what He had done for her. And that's all that Jesus asks us to do—to be a witness for Him. A witness is one who tells what he knows. Has God saved you? Does the Bible mean a lot to you? Does God hear and answer your prayers? Does He satisfy your heart so that you don't go searching for “the water of this world” that can never satisfy your spiritual thirst? Then tell it! Tell your friends and neighbors. Tell your classmates. Tell those who are in sorrow, who are lonely, who need friends, those who are still looking for something that will satisfy—tell them about the living water.

The natural water which we have to keep drinking to quench our thirst is a picture of all the things of this world with which we try to satisfy our hearts. Some believe that money and the things that money can buy will make them completely happy. Young people have been known to sacrifice everything to excel in sports or to graduate with top honors in their class—thinking that these accomplishments will bring deep satisfaction on the inside.

Some think that doing and having what they want will satisfy their hearts. Suppose they get what they want. It's not long before they're tired of it and unhappy and restless again. The next thing we hear them talking about is something else they want. All of those things, no matter how fine and expensive they are, will not satisfy a person and make him happy inside. That is drinking of the water of this world. We have to come back again and again for more and more, for our thirst is never quenched.

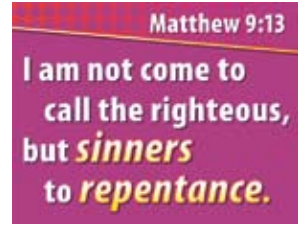
A heart that has been created for God and eternity cannot be satisfied with natural things. We need the living water, the kind that only Jesus can give. If you haven't tasted of God's living water, then why don't you trust Christ as your personal Savior today?

Prayer

Review **Matthew 9:13**.

Sing *He Keeps Me Singing* p. 10 #5

Distribute *Focus 7*.



Verse Visual 6