

Jesus is friends with everyone



Verse:

John 4:5-11, 13-15, 25-26, 39-42
Jesus and a Samaritan woman



Aim:

To see how Jesus accepts a Samaritan woman



In today's session we see Jesus giving us the perfect example of how to treat others with respect.

Traditionally Jews and Samaritans were sworn enemies, and yet Jesus took the time to respect and love a Samaritan woman gathering water at the well. Looking at this story, we will learn what it means to accept and love others regardless of their race or background.

Each child will need:

- Two paper bowls, white card, felt-tip pens (especially blue and two shades of brown), glue, scissors, a sharp pencil, blue string or wool, a blue bendy straw and sticky tape
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- To watch ***Rebekah at the well - Isaac and Rebecca - Sunday School Crafts - Bible Crafts*** by Kelly Hahn (1:17)
- A sharp tool to make holes in the paper bowls



Start it

Say:

Over the past few weeks we have been thinking about what it feels like to come from another country to live in the UK or Ireland.

Ask:

What are some of the reasons that people leave their own country to live in a new place?



Ask:

Can you think of a very well-known bear who left his home in Peru to come and live in London? What's his name?

Say:

Paddington Bear came to London to start a new life and the Brown family took him in and cared for him. But not everyone was quite as welcoming as the Brown family.

Video

Paddington Trailer 1 (2014) by Rotten Tomatoes (2:30)

Discuss:

- How did Mr Brown react to Paddington when he first saw him? Why do you think that was?
- Rather than giving Paddington a new name, do you think it would have been better for the Brown family to learn how to say his name in bear language? If so, why?
- Name some of the things that were new to Paddington at the Brown family house.
- How did Mr Brown feel about Paddington by the end of the film? Why do you think his opinion changed?

Say:

When Mr Brown first met Paddington, he made lots of assumptions about the kind of bear he was, without getting to know him. His opinion of Paddington changed when he put aside his ideas about Paddington and got to know him more.



Sing it

Say:

In today's story we see Jesus showing his love for a Samaritan woman and setting an example of how we should love others. This song reminds us that Jesus loves everyone, everywhere.

Song

'Everyone, everywhere' - Early Years - February (2022) by IES Kids Church (2:48)



Tell it

Say:

Whenever we are unsure how to act in a situation, we can always look to Jesus and think about the way he would respond. In today's story Jesus met a Samaritan woman collecting water from a well. Now this might not seem like a big deal to us today, but it was a huge deal at the

time of Jesus. At that time, women rarely talked to men that they did not know, and Jews like Jesus were meant to have nothing to do with Samaritans like the woman. Let's turn to the book of John to find out more about this story.

Read:

'In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar. This town is near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip. So he sat down beside the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." (This happened while Jesus' followers were in town buying some food.)

'The woman said, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink. You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan." (Jews are not friends with Samaritans.)

'Jesus said, "You don't know what God gives. And you don't know who asked you for a drink. If you knew, you would have asked me, and I would have given you living water."

'The woman said, "Sir, where will you get that living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with.'"

(John 4:5-11 *ICB*)

Watch the following clip with the group and use the follow-up questions to prompt discussion.

Video

Woman at the well - Let's Go by Crossroads Kids' Club

Watch: 00:00 to 3:28 'He was kind to her, he was honest with her and he showed her love.'

Discuss

- How did the Jews feel about the Samaritans?
- How did Jesus feel about the Samaritan woman?
- Why was the woman so confused by the way Jesus was acting?
- What kind of water did Jesus offer to the Samaritan woman?
- What unexpected thing did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman?
- How did Jesus describe himself?

Say:

Jesus ignored the fact that he was talking to a woman who was a Samaritan and had made many mistakes in her life. He loved her regardless of who she was. Jesus didn't care about any of those things. He loved the Samaritan woman, just like he loves us.

Ask:

- How do you think the Samaritan woman felt as she went back to her home town after meeting Jesus?

- How can we treat others in the same way Jesus did?

Say:

When people spent time with Jesus, he filled their lives with hope. Jesus wants us to treat people with the same love and respect that he showed to the Samaritan woman. When we show the love of Jesus to people, regardless of their background, they will want to show that love to others. Just look what happened with the Samaritan woman: she couldn't wait to tell everyone about meeting Jesus.

Read:

'Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman said: "He told me everything I have ever done." The Samaritans came to Jesus and begged him to stay with them. So he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of the things he said.

'They said to the woman, "First we believed in Jesus because of what you told us. But now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'"

(John 4:39-42 ICB)

Action it

Craft

Show the children how to make their own well, to remind them of the story of the Samaritan woman. You may wish to share the video with them.

The title of the clip is linked to a different Bible story, but the activity can still be used for the story of the Samaritan woman.

Video

Rebekah at the well – Isaac and Rebecca – Sunday School Crafts – Bible Crafts by Kelly Hahn (1:17)

Afterwards you may want to encourage the children to write the memory verse for this month on the back of their well.

Pray it

Say:

There are lots of people in our society who are treated differently because of the colour of their

skin or their background. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we are all one in Christ. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

(Galatians 3:28 *ESV*)

Encourage the children to think about the way they treat other people. How can they follow Jesus' example, treating everyone, regardless of their race or background, with love and respect?

After the discussion give the children time to write a prayer asking God for guidance and praying for those who are treated badly because of their race or religion. Is there anyone they could invite to an Explore it session or church activity? They could include this person in their prayers. If the children feel comfortable, then they can share their prayers with the rest of the group. Sing the 'Neither Jew nor Greek' song to bring the session to a close.

Video

'Neither Jew nor Greek' Galatians 3:28 by I Believe (1:05)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore it ideas* for children and families.



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Notice

Sometimes we can get caught up in our own world, thinking about how we feel, what we want and what we need. It can be easy to miss the experiences of others and notice what they are going through.

As you go to school, or take part in clubs or activities this week, take a moment to notice those who may be treated differently or excluded from the rest of the group. In those moments, ask God to guide you to show his love to those who are excluded.



Discuss

Watch the clip together and discuss what it teaches us about respecting and sharing with others.

Life lessons sharing and respecting others
by 3AM Thoughts



Song for the week

'Everyone, everywhere' - Early Years -
February (2022) by IES Kids Church



Memory verse

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

(Galatians 3:28 ESV)

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