



## Woman at the Well (John 4:5–42)

*Our purpose is not only to tell a story but to help kids really understand the story. We do that by engaging them—helping them wonder about what God is doing in the story and in their lives.*

### Before the story:

#### Opening: WONDER on the GO

*We will repeat this opening activity every week to build a pattern in students of always looking for “God Sightings.”*

*Reread Psalm 139:14: “I praise you, for I am wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”*

*Ask students: Did you see anything wonderful this week? (Encourage them to think about nature, friends, family, or pets.)*

*Did you see someone do something kind or brave? These can be called “God Sightings.”*

*If we keep our minds and eyes open, we can see many ways God shows God love every day!*

#### Build background before the story

Ask students if they have ever felt like they have run out of energy? What are some things they can do to get refreshed and full of energy again? (snacks, sleep, hugs, water, playtime)

In today’s story Jesus meets a woman at a well and asks for a drink. He tells her about a different kind of “living water” that refreshes us on the inside!

**Define Terms:** We can’t assume students understand the meaning of words we frequently use. If they don’t understand the meaning of a word, they can’t understand the meaning of the story.

- In Jesus time they did not have running water in their homes. They had to get water at a **well**. A well is a deep hole in the ground that fills up with earth’s water. Often several families or a whole town shared a well.
- **Living Water** is a special way that Jesus talks about the joy, happiness and love of God that never runs out. Just like real water keeps us alive. **Living water** fixes the “thirsty” or empty feeling we have inside.
- In the Bible **refresh** means to get new joy, energy, and strength from God when you are feeling tired, sad, or overwhelmed.

### After the Story:

#### Rethinking the story-Wondering Questions

Try having the students close their eyes and think of the answers quietly inside their heads. If this is too hard, have the students whisper their answers so others can have their own thoughts. Allow silence. This is sacred reflection time.

Ask open-ended, imaginative questions. There are no wrong answers.

- I wonder what it would be like to meet Jesus.
- I wonder if I would recognize Him if He was standing by a water fountain.
- I wonder if I would be excited to tell others, like the woman at the well.
- I wonder if meeting Jesus would change me.

### **Craft:** Living Water Bottle

**Materials needed:** Small, clear, empty, water bottles, blue tissue paper (or scraps of blue paper), small popsicle sticks, masking tape, markers, optional: heart shaped stickers.

Fill the empty water bottles with torn pieces of blue paper. The popsicle sticks can help push the paper into the bottle. Decorate the outside of the bottle with heart stickers. Add a strip of tape to the outside so students can write on the tape: "Jesus gives me living water".

While the students work, remind them that Jesus gives us love that never runs out.

### **Activity:** Water Relays

**Older students: Materials needed:** Straws, tape, small bottles of water.

Give each student 5 straws. Have them tape them end to end to make a really long straw. Have races to see who can drink all the water out of their bottle first, using the extra long straws.

**Younger students: Materials needed:** Towels, bowls of water, tablespoons, paper cups.

Place a bowl of water on a towel in the center of the table so several students can easily reach it. Have the students race to fill their paper cup with water using the tablespoons.

**Closing:** Repeat the prayer from the story video:

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for loving all people. Thank you for filling our hearts with your never-ending love. Help us share your love with others.*

*Amen.*



### Game Options: Blind Man's Bluff or Mud In Your Eye

Blind Man's Bluff is a variation of tag where the player who is "it" (tagging other players) is blindfolded.

Mud In Your Eye is a version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey. One student is blindfolded, given a piece of brown paper, with rolled tape on the back and sent to try to put the brown paper mud onto a picture of a large face. The object is to get the brown paper as close to the eyes as possible.

### Closing:

Remind students that even when we are confused or uncertain, God is always with us, leading us, comforting us, and loving us! God's love is never **blind**!

Repeat the prayer from the story video.

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank You for being the light. Thank You for helping us to see your love. Help us see people who need kindness. And help us bring your light to them.*

*Amen*