

## Reality – Bible Lesson for July 19, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

### Worship

#### Lesson 3: Jesus Explains Worship

- 1. Lesson: Jesus Explains Worship**
- 2. Scripture:** John 4:3-42
- 3. Memory Verse:** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth." – John 4:24
- 4. Mission Story:** Resumes in the Fall
- 5. Bible Skills:** Resumes in the Fall
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - a Bible** **Extra Game:** several 3-inch square pieces of construction paper (enough so that each child can have 10); markers; a stopwatch of some sort (a cell phone is great)

#### Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

Video about worshipping in Spirit and Truth - Elementary Ages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEp1yrzPs0g>

Videos about the Samaritan Woman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vf3rqnoG5c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNxNWv6KZ7s>

**1. Prayer:** Pray with your children – then introduce the following attention grabber:

**Say:** We have learned that we can praise God by praying, reading God's Word, singing songs, playing music, writing poems, drawing pictures, or just shouting it out! When we praise God, we are celebrating and telling Him the things we love about Him. (Stop for responses after you ask the questions below.)

- What is your favorite way to praise God?
- What might happen when other people hear or see your praise to God?

Today, we're going to praise God together by telling ways to finish this sentence, "God, You are so..." (Allow a few minutes for the children to think of ways to finish the sentence. They will use them in the prayer below.)

Then begin by saying, "**Dear God, You deserve all of our praise. You do great things for us. God, You are so...**" (Ask volunteers to tell the ideas they have thought of for finishing the sentence.) Finish by saying – **God we love You.**

**2.Bible Story:** (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

**Jesus said, "But a new time is coming. In fact, it is already here. True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father is looking for. God is spirit. His worshipers must worship him in the Spirit and in truth." – John 4:23-24**

To say that we must worship God "in spirit" means, among other things, that it must come from within, from the heart; it must be sincere and motivated by our love for God and our thankfulness for all He is and all He has done.

So, let's learn about a special way that Jesus taught this lesson to a Samaritan woman when Jesus was seeking a real worshiper..

The disciple, John, tells us that Jesus is the "One whom God has sent." Jesus, as the Son of God, is fully God and fully man. He has the authority of God to accomplish all His Father's purposes. **John 4:3-6** tells us about a time when Jesus left Judea and headed for Galilee. But, since Jesus and His disciples were Jewish, He picked a strange way to go on this journey. Let's look at that journey and see the two different routes He and His disciples could choose to take. (Point to the locations on a Bible map, if you have one, while you talk.)

Jesus led His disciples to travel through Samaria even though Jews did not go through Samaria. Jews didn't like Samaritans because they were half-Jewish and were considered to be lower-class people. They had taken other religions and mixed them with the Jewish way of worshipping. This bothered the Jewish people so much that they would travel a long way around the area and add many extra miles to their journey just to avoid the Samaritan people and their land. Jesus wanted to go to Samaria to show that God loves all people. We are all the same to Jesus. He came to save the whole world. We are all sinners, but Jesus loves us and will forgive everyone who repents and comes to Him.

When Jesus and His disciples got to the village of Sychar in Samaria, Jesus was tired, so He sat by a well to rest. His disciples went on into the village to find food. Remember that Jesus is God, the Creator of the world who had come to earth to rescue us and save us from our sins - but He had put on the body and the physical limitations of a man. Jesus is fully God and fully man. When we are tired, or hungry, or thirsty – He knows just how we feel. Jesus stopped to rest, but He had a special purpose for sitting beside this well.

It was around noon and a woman came to the well to draw water. She was a woman who was looked down upon by the people of the town. Most of the women came to the well much earlier in the day and they came with their friends. This woman came alone. When Jesus saw her, He asked her for a drink of water. This was especially important to

her. She knew that Jewish people hated Samaritans. She responded, "You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" She said this because Jews don't have anything to do with Samaritans. **(John 4:9)** Jesus' answer to her was so amazing! Jesus did what He always does and went straight to what was important... thinking about our spirits, the part of us that will live forever. He knew everything about her life, and He knew what she needed in her life, so he answered, "You do not know what God's gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water." **(John 4:10)** He told the woman about a different kind of water – living water. He was talking about Himself. This confused the woman and she asked Jesus if He had anything to use to draw out the water from the well. **(John 4:11-12)** Then Jesus continued, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life." **(John 4:13-14)**

The Bible often uses water as an example to teach us something important. Water refreshes the body. You can go for many days without food, but you can only last for a few days without water. Your body is made up of mostly water and needs a steady supply of it. Since we need water to survive, Jesus was using what people knew about water as a starting point for His conversation. Water satisfies the body...Jesus satisfies the soul.

The Samaritan woman was very curious at the thought of this living water. She wanted some. She didn't understand that Jesus was talking about spiritual water. Jesus knew her heart and He knew about the mistakes she was making in her life. If she was going to have His living water, she had to fix the wrong things in her heart. Jesus knew everything about her. We can't hide anything from Jesus. She could receive living water from Jesus, but she had to deal with all the things she was doing wrong in her life first. She had sin in her life, and she needed to repent and ask Jesus for forgiveness. Instead, the woman tried to avoid what Jesus was saying to her. She wanted Jesus to think that she was fine. But Jesus loved her enough to tell her the truth about her life. We can't hide from Jesus – He knows all about us.

The woman knew that Jesus was someone extraordinary. She called Him a prophet, but we know that He is much more than a prophet. He is our Messiah – our Savior. **(John 4:19)** The woman asked Jesus where people are supposed to worship, but Jesus told her that where we worship is not important. To really worship God, we all need to go down to the deepest places in our hearts and be open and honest before God. We need to show Him our purest love and thankfulness for all He has done. **(John 4:21-24)**

There was something so honest and amazing about Jesus that the woman finally began to wonder if He could be the promised Messiah. Then Jesus boldly proclaimed, "The one you're talking about is the one speaking to you. I am He." **(John 4:26)** She suddenly knew that she was face to face with Jesus – the Messiah! The disciples came back to Jesus with food and there He was talking to a Samaritan woman. Jesus told them that His food was doing the Father's will. He told His disciples that there were

people everywhere who needed the living water of Jesus in their hearts. We are His disciples and we can go and tell others about Jesus. We can proclaim Him as the Messiah! We can be true worshipers. **(John 4:27-34)**

The woman left her water pot, so she could move quickly, and ran into the village to tell others about Jesus. The people came to hear Jesus for themselves and they were filled with the living water. Jesus stayed there for two days and He and His disciples led many of them to salvation. Because the woman ran to tell others, many came to Jesus and were saved. Jesus still expects us to go and tell others about Him. Because we love Jesus, we want others to know about Him and be saved too. **(John 4:39-42)**

Now how can the living water of Jesus bubble up inside of you? How can you worship Him in Spirit and in Truth? You can invite Him to be a part of everything you do. You can spend time reading the Bible and praying. You can tell others about Jesus and how much He loves them. You can be aware of and be a part of what God is doing around you. You can simply ask Him to be the Lord of your life now and become the kind of worshiper the Father is looking for.

### **3.Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:**

1. Where was Jesus going when our story begins? (to Galilee)
2. Jesus passed through a region to get where He was going. What area did He choose to pass through? (Samaria)
3. Who did Jesus meet at the well? (A woman from Samaria)
4. Why was the woman surprised that Jesus was talking to her? (Jewish men did not talk to Samaritan women.)
5. What did Jesus ask the woman to give Him? (a drink of water)
6. What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman? (Living Water)
7. When the woman said that she knew the Messiah was coming, what did Jesus say to her? (The One you're talking about is the one speaking to you. I am He.)
8. How did Jesus say we should worship God? (In Spirit and in Truth)

### **4.Prayer/Journaling:**

Have the children read **Matthew 22:37** and **Philippians 4:4**. Ask them what these verses say to them about worship.

God wants you to not just sing words or go through other actions when you worship Him. He wants you to really mean what you say and do. The Bible is full of examples of how you can worship:

Sing: Psalm 100:2

Pray: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Dance: Psalm 149:3

Give: Isaiah 58:7

Serve: Matthew 4:10

What matters is that you truly worship from deep in your heart. Remember – God is not limited by time or space. He wants you to worship Him all the time. God wants the things that you do to be a part of your worship of Him. Everything you do should praise God.

**Pray:** Thank you God that I can worship You at any time. Please help me to worship You with all of my heart – in Spirit and in Truth. (Sing any praise song you wish to sing.) [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

**5.Mission Story:** Resumes in the Fall

**6.Bible Skills:** Resumes in the Fall

**7.Memory Verse:** Have the children say the memory verse one more time – “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth.” – John 4:24

- Repeat the verse several times, each time emphasizing a different word. For example, the first time emphasize “God”, the second time emphasize “is”, the third time emphasize “Spirit”, etc.
- Once they get a basic idea of the verse do the next step...As you are saying the verse to the children, stop suddenly and see if someone can say the next word. Make a game of it.

**8.Closing Prayer:** Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.

**Extra Game: Praise God**

1. Give each child 10 squares of paper and a marker. Children number their squares 1 to 10 and then randomly place the squares on the floor, numbered side down. Spread the squares out as much as possible in your playing area.
2. Divide your group into teams. Teams line up shoulder-to-shoulder on opposite sides of the playing area. Assign numbers to the children as in the game “Steal the Bacon”. (See sketch below)

Team 1      Paper Squares      Team 2

4	XXX	1
3	XXX	2
2	XXX	3
1	XXX	4

3. Call two numbers. Children with those numbers from each team have five seconds to collect as many construction-paper squares as possible. Call "Stop" when time is up; children return to their teams with the squares they collected and add the numbers on the squares. Volunteers from the team with the highest number total tells a reason to praise God.
4. To play another round, volunteers return squares to the playing area, numbered side down. Play as many round as time allows. (Replace crumpled squares as needed.)