

Lesson Plan

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.”...Then the **WOMAN LEFT HER WATER JAR**, went into town, and told the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

JOHN 4:13–14, 28–29

Prepare

- ▶ This week our church is having the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Its focus is on four ministries right here in our state: Christian Women’s Job Corps, Connect Missions Weekend, Arkansas Prison Initiative, and Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief. Each of these vital ministries is featured in the Dixie Jackson videos. You can watch them at absc.org/dj.
- ▶ Read the story of the Samaritan woman found in John 4:1–41.
- ▶ Pray for the Lord’s guidance as you prepare to teach this lesson.
- ▶ Ask God to open the spiritual eyes of those who will hear it.



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Learn Together

When the Samaritan woman encountered Jesus, she experienced a turning point which led her

to leave her water jar and rush to share with the people she had previously avoided.

Read John 4:1–41 and then answer these questions:

1. Jesus was sitting beside a well when He saw a Samaritan woman coming to draw water. She came alone. That was unusual since women usually came together in groups to collect water. Why was the woman surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink? (Verse 9)
2. Our bodies need water to survive. What did Jesus mean by “living water”? (Verses 10–14)
3. What did Jesus reveal about the woman’s life? (Verses 16–18)
4. She had heard that the Messiah was coming. What did Jesus reveal about Himself? (Verse 25–26)
5. The woman was so impacted by Jesus that she left her water jug and went to tell the townspeople about Him. Why would she do this since she had tried to avoid them before? (Verses 28–29)
6. Why did the people leave the town and come to see Jesus after they heard what the woman said?
7. Romans 6:22–23 (CSB) says, “But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life! For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
How could someone be enslaved to sin?
8. If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, describe this turning point in your life.

9. Did God use a particular person to help you come face-to-face with your need for a Savior?

10. Pastor David Jeremiah said in the article "Finding a Place at the Well," that Jesus looked for a person's need. He said Jesus still wants to "continue sharing living water with the lost today, and He wants to do it through you."

What are the needs of people in your life? How could you share the hope of Christ with them?

Ministry Highlights

Countless people are searching for meaning in life. All you have to do is look around your neighborhood. Turn on the TV... search the Internet. Maybe even look in the mirror.

Many feel hopeless and don't know where to go.

Summer describes herself as once having been one of those people—just surviving. Abused since a child by her father and grandfather, she said, "I had no dreams. I was dead inside."

She grew up in a chaotic, drug-and-alcohol-filled home. People thought of her as trash, and she thought of herself that way, too.

Others, like Robert, compared himself to rotting fruit. Today he's incarcerated in the Varner Unit of the Arkansas Prison System for two capital murders and several aggravated robberies. He's among 30 men there with life sentences. "They're just sitting there," he said, "with no hope...no future."

But both Summer and Robert were wrong about their identity. They each discovered hope because someone cared enough to introduce them to Jesus. The changes in their lives weren't instant. But step-by-step they learned to trust the One who knows everything about them and wanted them to have "living water."

Summer and Robert each came to a turning point through ministries you help support through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.

Summer discovered lasting friendships through Women Equipped, a Saline County site for Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC). It was there that she not only learned life skills, but also met women who prayed for her and loved her unconditionally. Through these women she let go of her deep anger and discovered the healing power of Jesus.

And Robert? His journey to lasting change began with a man from a church in Star City who visited his prison barracks. "You mind if I sit down?" he said.

Robert said, "He wanted to know who I was. He wanted to get familiar with me."

Over time the man helped Robert see his need for the Lord. "I needed the Lord to deal with my heart" he said. "...to let His love resonate...even in prison."

Robert's search for truth eventually led him to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies degree. He did this through the Arkansas Prison Initiative in his prison. Now, he looks forward to a life of ministry, right where he is.

As you read about the ministries below, and watch the Dixie Jackson videos, you will hear many stories, including Summer's and Robert's. You will meet people who are like the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well.

Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief

Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief (ABDR) describes itself as "Caring people rushing to people in crisis to offer the help, healing, and hope of Jesus Christ." With the destructive tornadoes on March 31 in Little Rock, Wynne, and other areas, many in our state have seen firsthand the hard work and compassion of ABDR teams.

Teams extend the love of Christ to disaster survivors as they provide hot meals and emergency communications, remove damaging trees and debris, tarp damaged roofs, clean up after floods, and so much more. Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief chaplains look for opportunities to point heartbroken people to Christ.



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Pastor Justin Murphy was on the first ABDR team that arrived in Wynne. When he walked into the devastation of what once was his high school, he had an “aha moment.” It was the first time he had been there since being banned from sporting events and told never to come back.

The Justin Murphy who stepped into that rubble was not the same as the high school student who had stepped out of its walls. He said going back to Wynne with the ABDR team was a turning point “to go back and see...God can heal those scars. He can heal those hurts.”

After the Wynne tornado, Justin was able to minister to many hurting people. One was the family of a mother in hospice care. He prayed with the family and contacted some other ABDR chaplains in the area. “They were able to go that very night and be with that family while they were in the process of losing their loved one.”

Pray

- ▶ That disaster survivors will see the love of Jesus Christ through the ministry of ABDR.
- ▶ For more men and women to become ABDR volunteers. Learn more at Disaster Relief absdisasterrelief.org
- ▶ That Disaster Relief chaplains and first responders will be used by God to provide comfort in extremely difficult times.
- ▶ For adequate Disaster Relief funds to update equipment, provide gas for vehicles and power tools, feed disaster survivors, etc.

Christian Women’s Job Corps

Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC) strives to prepare women, in a Christian context, for life and employment. A national organization, there are currently four CWJC groups in Arkansas. They are all part of the Woman’s Missionary Union.

Each Arkansas CWJC site offers Bible study, career-focused classes, and training in communication/computer/life skills. It also provides mentoring relationships for women (18 and older) who want to change their lives. Students must attend classes for 12 weeks and

work with mentors to help them achieve their goals.

Summer was one of these women. When she first came to Women Equipped, a CWJC group in Benton, she was angry and unprepared to enter the workforce. That changed as she took the classes and met women who truly loved her. “You know, I’ve never really seen love like this before,” she said. “They didn’t let you give up.”

God worked through CWJC as a turning point for Summer. Today, she said, God has “restored me...I see Him as my dad...He has healed me from all of the addictions. I see Him as love. I never knew what love was before: true, real, authentic love.”

Pray

- ▶ That students will complete their classes and have hearts that are open to the difference Christ can make in their lives.
- ▶ For women to be drawn by Christ to be CWJC students, teachers, and mentors.
- ▶ That more Arkansas Baptist churches will begin CWJC groups.
- ▶ For discernment and wisdom pairing participants with mentors.

CONNECT Missions Weekend

This student experience packs a weeklong missions trip into just one weekend. It is designed for 7th through 12th grade students and their adult leaders. Groups are housed in a local church, and Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief provides showers and many of the meals. The weekend is filled with times of worship, evangelism training, and ministry projects.

Thirteen-year-old Emma thought she was not ready to tell others about Jesus, that she was too young and didn’t know what to say. But all of that changed through Connect. Emma said, “When I got there, it was awesome to see for the first time all of the kids...around the state come and get to share the Gospel.”

That weekend was a turning point for her. She took a step of faith and told others about the free gift of salvation. She realized God wanted to work



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through her. “I just felt the joy of the Lord, just His Spirit exploding in me,” Emma said.

With her decision to share the Gospel, she sensed God saying to her, “You are mine. I can use you as a tool.”

God changed Emma’s life that weekend when she understood her strength is in Christ, not in herself. He also changed the lives of those she told about Jesus.

Pray

- ▶ That youth groups will learn about Connect and its weekend missions opportunity.
- ▶ For students to become equipped to share the Gospel wherever they are.
- ▶ That the students who go to Connect will recognize opportunities they have in their own hometowns to share Christ.
- ▶ For adult leaders who will accompany students to Connect weekends.

Arkansas Prison Initiative

In 2019, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention began offering a Bachelor of Christian Arts degree to inmates in the Varner Maximum Security Unit. This was made possible because of funds from the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

On May 12, 2023, the seminary had its first graduation in Varner. Eighteen inmates received their degrees. These men studied the Old and New Testament and had extensive training in biblical counseling. As graduates, they are now able to apply for a program that will allow them to minister to other inmates.

Robert was one of these graduates. He admits he’s done some terrible thing – that his prison sentence was no mistake. “I’m here,” he said, “because I was guilty for the things that I had done.”

But today he thanks God for forgiving him for those wicked things. “He [Jesus] has paid the price to redeem me,” Robert said, “to use me as a vessel for him.”

Attending the seminary classes changed the course of Robert’s life. He found true purpose. No longer hopeless, his future will be filled with helping others in prison. He wants to help other inmates discover a right attitude and value system and become men of God.

Each year, jail and prison ministry training sessions are held to help Arkansas Baptists reach current and former prisoners in their own communities. For information about jail ministry, contact Bob Fielding by email at bfielding@absc.org.

Pray

- ▶ That the 18 men who just received their Bachelor of Christian Arts degrees will walk closely with Christ and point other inmates to Jesus.
- ▶ For Dr. Mark Thompson, the director of the prison initiative at the Varner Maximum Security Unit.
- ▶ That many inmates will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- ▶ For God to change generations through the seminary program in Varner Unit.

In the article “Finding Your Place at the Well,” Pastor David Jeremiah said: “Jesus always lets the person’s need determine what He said or did. At times it was teaching, and other times it was healing, encouragement, or forgiveness. Jesus wants to continue sharing the living water with the lost today, and He wants to do it through you.”

You are part of providing turning points in people’s lives when you pray for Arkansas Baptist ministries and give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. The grace that Jesus offers can change even the most hardened heart. And, like the Samaritan woman, that’s something to get excited about!



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ADULT

Resources

Click boxes to open links online.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention—Help Others See God (absc.org)

Finding a Place at the Well—Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah (oneplace.com)

Lead>Defend: A leadership and apologetics conference for high school students, collegiates, and young professionals

New Seminary Extension to Open in Arkansas Prison (absc.org)

The Varner Unit Holds First Seminary Graduation (article and short graduation video)

Watch Dixie Jackson videos



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