



DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
2023

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

Read John 4:1-41. As you prepare to teach about the Samaritan woman at the well, pray that God will open your own heart to the truths in this passage. Also ask Him for insight into the unique children who will hear it.

Are you teaching preschoolers at home or in a Sunday school class? What are the children’s daily lives like? Have they heard Bible stories before?

In this lesson you will help preschoolers understand that like the woman who “left her water jar,” we all have turning points in our lives. For these young children, a turning point could be a simple “Do I obey Mom and Dad?”

Jesus loves children and wants you to share His love and truths with even the youngest ones. Matthew 18:5,14 says: “And whoever welcomes one child like this in my name welcomes me...In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones perish.”

Pray

- ▶ That the Holy Spirit will help you express spiritual truths in a simple way.
- ▶ For each child who will hear today’s lesson.

Learn Together

Materials: Bible, map of Arkansas

Say something like, “This week is special because we’re having the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer. It’s a time when churches will pray for people involved in Arkansas Baptist ministries and also give some money to help them.

Now put on your listening ears. I’m going to tell you how this special week began.”

Who Is Dixie Jackson?

Ask the children how old they are. Then say something like, “A very long time ago (even before you, your parents, or grandparents were born) there was a woman named Dixie Jackson. She lived in the small town of Dardanelle, Arkansas. (Point to the town of Dardanelle on an Arkansas map.) Learn more online about Dixie Jackson by clicking her name in the box above. You may also want to show a picture of Dixie Jackson to the children. There is one on the next page.

Mrs. Jackson loved Jesus very much. She wanted everyone to know about Him. She was also very happy about the wonderful things God was doing through Arkansas Baptist Missions. She asked God to bless and guide them. She asked Baptists all around our state to pray for them, too.

Who do you think the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer was named after? (Yes, Mrs. Jackson!)



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Now we will learn about another woman who lived a long, long time ago.

Teach

Open your Bible and turn to John 4:1-41. Point to it and say something like, "In the Bible, in a book called John, we are told a wonderful true story. Let's hear what happened."

Jesus was sitting beside a well when a woman came to get water. She was surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink. That's because a lot of people didn't like her.

The woman was from Samaria, and she had never met Jesus before. But somehow, He knew all about her. Some of the things He knew about her made her sad because she had disobeyed God.

But Jesus wanted to do something nice for her. He wanted to give her a very special kind of water and said, "whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again."

She was so excited that she 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?"

Ask the children some questions:

1. Who was sitting by the well when the woman came there? (Jesus, vs. 6)
2. Why did she go to a well with an empty water jug. (She wanted to fill it with water, vs. 7.)
3. What kind of water did Jesus want to give her? (a special kind of water that would last forever, John 4:14)

Possible Learning Activities

Watch a reenactment of the story in John 4:14, 28-29.

Ask a few older children to reenact this true story. As you read the Bible passage below, they



Mrs. Dixie Jackson

will pretend to be different people in it. (If you are doing this with your child at home, you could ask older siblings or neighbor children to reenact the story.)

Begin with the "Samaritan woman" walking through a "crowd" of several people who move away from her as she approaches. They make ugly faces at her and point.

The "Samaritan woman" will be carrying some kind of container for water as she moves to a well. (You could just put "well" in front of a chair.) Have one of the boys stand by the chair and pretend to speak (does not make any sounds) as you read the words of Jesus.

Teacher: Jesus said to the woman, "...whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again.'...Then the WOMAN LEFT HER WATER JAR, went into town."

"Samaritan woman" puts the water jug down and walks back to the "crowd" of several people who had rejected her. She says to them, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:14, 28-29)



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Object Lesson

- ▶ Choose a helper
- ▶ Materials: 2 clear containers, stirring spoon, dirt

Have some water in two clear containers. In front of the children, pour some dirt into one of the containers. Ask your helper to stir it. Then ask your helper to hold up the container with the dirty water in it. Say something like, "When we sin and disobey God, this is what our hearts look like."

Invite the children to compare what the two containers of water look like. Then ask your helper to point to the clean water and say something like, "This is the kind of heart Jesus was offering the woman at the well—a clean heart. He wants us to have this kind of heart, too."

Craft: "Well of Life"

Learn more online by clicking in the box:

Crafts about the Woman at the Well for Sunday School—Ministry-to-Children Bible Crafts for Children's Ministry (John 4:5–42)

You will need:

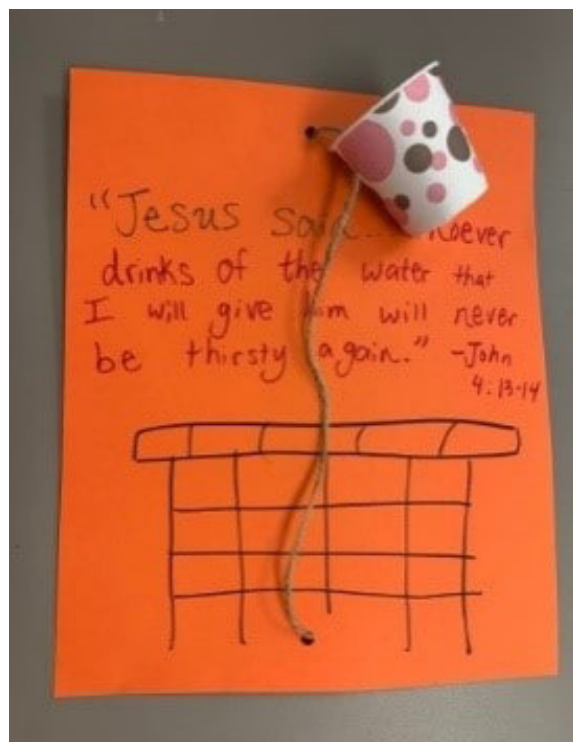
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Construction paper
- ▶ Paper cups
- ▶ Markers or decorating materials
- ▶ String or yarn
- ▶ Hole punch

Procedure:

- ▶ Decorate the paper to look like a "well" of some sort. Embellish with sky or other elements as desired.
- ▶ Punch a hole in the top and bottom of the paper, about two inches from each border (or as much as your hole punch allows).
- ▶ Punch a hole in the side of a small paper cup, which will serve as a "bucket."
- ▶ Cut a piece of string long enough to go up and down the length of paper. Insert the string into one side of the paper, then through the cup, and then through the other

side of the paper. Tie the string at the back and trim any extra ends.

- ▶ Add a verse caption, and any extra "water drops" or stickers that you like. Have fun tugging the string to raise and lower the "bucket"!



Pray Together

Pray as God leads you. Here is an example of a simple prayer:

"God, You know all about us. You even know about the times we have disobeyed. But You still love us so much. Thank You that Jesus wants us to know Him forever. Thank You that Jesus wants all of us to have clean hearts."

Visit our website to download promotional resources + discover more about Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions:

ABSC.ORG/DJ