

LESSON PLAN

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-42

Lesson Memory Verse: John 4:39a - "Many of the Samaritans of the city believed on Him for the saying of the woman which testified, **He told me all that I ever did** (Grades 1-2 memorize the portion in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: Do not try to hide your sins from Jesus, because He is God and knows all that you think or do.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever played a game where you hid something and then told your friends to find it? (Let them talk about it.) Some people try to hide their sins and hope no one will find out about them. Can you think of ways that people try to hide their sins? (Let them try to name some.) I am going to tell you a story about a girl who thought she could hide her sins and not be caught. Listen carefully to see what she did to try to hide her sin.

Becky was a girl about your age who was probably like you in many ways. One day Becky's mother was going to the store to buy some groceries. Before she left she told Becky, "I'd like you to pick some strawberries from the garden in our back yard. Do not pick any in the garden across the street by the old empty house."

As soon as Becky's mother had left for the store, Becky took a pan and went out into the back yard and started to pick strawberries. Pretty soon Becky thought to herself, "I don't think there are many strawberries in our garden. I think there are more across the street. If I pick those berries, my mother will never find out anyway." So, thinking her mother would not find out about her sin, she crossed the street and filled her pan with nice big juicy strawberries.

When Becky's mother got home from the store she saw the strawberries that Becky had picked sitting on the kitchen table. She said to Becky, "These strawberries are not from our garden, Becky. These are much larger than ours. You went across the street and picked the ones over there, didn't you?" Quickly Becky said, "Oh no, Mother, I picked them out of our garden. I didn't disobey you." Mother said no more and so Becky thought that she had hidden her sin with a lie. Now her mother would never find out about her sin. She forgot that God saw everything and knew all about her secret sin.

The next morning when Becky woke up her arms and legs were itching terribly and she had little red bumps all over them. Becky's mother had told her not to pick the strawberries from the garden across the street because of the poison ivy that was growing in between the plants. Now Becky's mother knew that her daughter had disobeyed her and also had lied to her. Becky could not hide her sin. Even if Becky's mother had not found out about her sin, who still would have known about it? (God) Do you think God knows all about your secret sins, too?

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse today shows that Jesus knows all about you, because He is God. It says, "Many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that I ever did." Jesus knew all about the sins of the woman of Samaria. He also knows all about you. He knows what you have done in the past. He knows what you have done today. He even knows about all the things that you will do tomorrow and the next day and throughout the rest of your life. Therefore, you must not try to hide your sins. Instead, confess all of your sins and receive Jesus as your Savior. He will cleanse your sins and help you to turn away from your desire to sin.

Explanation of difficult words:

Samaritans – the people who lived in an area near the Jews whom they hated

Believed – to accept what a person says as truth

Testified – to tell others what he or she heard or saw

SEE (for Apperception and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our Bible story today will tell you about a sinful woman that Jesus met at a well in Samaria. He told her about her many sins, even though they had never met before this time. Listen to find out what happened.

I. Jesus Knows Your Activities - John 4:1-7a

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As Jesus and His disciples left Judea to go to Galilee they went through Samaria and came to the city called Sychar. There was a deep well that Jacob had dug near Sychar. It still exists today after several thousands of years. It was very unusual for Jews to travel in Samaria because the Jews and Samaritans in those days had nothing to do with each other. Most Jews thought they were better than the Samaritans and so they seldom traveled through Samaria. But the Bible says that Jesus needed to go through Samaria. Why do you think Jesus had to go through Samaria? (Let students answer.) Yes, He had a very important job to do in Samaria. He knew He had to talk to some people in Sychar. First, He had to talk to a sinful woman. He knew the exact place and time when He could meet her. It was at Jacob's well about noon. When the disciples went into the city to buy food, Jesus sat down at the well to rest awhile. At about noon a woman came to the well to get some water. This was the woman that Jesus wanted to meet. She had some serious problems and Jesus knew how to help her; He wanted to tell her how to be saved from her sins. He planned it perfectly so He could be at the well at just the right time and be able to talk with her.

WE: We are well known to Jesus. He knows everything about you. He knows where we are going to be this afternoon and what we are going to say and do. He knows when we need help and when we need to be punished. He loves us so we do not to be afraid that He knows all this about us. He wants to save us and make us a godly, happy person. Trust Him.

II. Jesus Knows Your Need - John 4:7b-15

When the woman of Samaria came to the well, Jesus wanted to help her because He knew exactly what she needed. She needed to be saved from her sins. Jesus spoke first and said to her, Give Me a drink. This surprised the woman because it was very unusual for a Jew to speak to a Samaritan, so she asked why He asked for a drink. He told her that He would have given her living water if she would have asked Him for it. By saying this, He meant that He would give her eternal life through the Holy Spirit (He is the living water). The woman did not understand what Jesus meant, so she said, Sir, you do not have anything with which you can get the water and this well is deep. How are you going to get this living water? Are you greater than Jacob who gave us this well? Jesus continued to tell her about the living water. He said, Whoever drinks of the water from this well will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give shall never be thirsty again because My gift of water will be like a well of water in him springing up into everlasting life. When the woman heard this, she said, Sir, give me your water, so that I will not be thirsty again and will not have to come and get water from this well anymore. The woman had come to the well to satisfy her thirst, but this was not her greatest need. Jesus knew that her greatest thirst was to be free from her sins. This is what she really wanted by did not know how to be set free.

WE: We may not know for sure if we are going to be in Heaven when we die, but Jesus knows. And He knows if you are interested in being set free from your sins. If you are interested in being saved from your sins, He will send someone to tell you about His free gift of salvation. Listen carefully to what that person tells you. Jesus wants you to have His gift and be with Him in Heaven.

III. Jesus Knows Your Sin - John 4:16-26, 28-30

Jesus knew all about the Samaritan woman. He knew that she had lived a very sinful life. So He said to the woman, Go into the city and call your husband and come out to see Me. The woman tried to hide her sin so she said, I have no husband. Jesus said, You have told the truth when you said that you have no husband, because you have had five husbands and the man you are now living with is not your husband. The woman was surprised that Jesus knew so much about her life, so she said, Sir, I think you must be a prophet. Jesus was a prophet, but more than a prophet; He was God. She finally said, I know that the Messiah (Christ) is going to come and when He comes, He will tell us all things. Then Jesus told her that He was the Christ. When Jesus had said this, the woman left her water jug and went back to the city and told the people, Come, see a man which told me everything that I have done. Is not this the Christ?

The woman of Samaria did not know that the person speaking to her was Jesus Christ until He told her all about her sins and then said that He was the Christ. When Jesus told her these things, she believed Him and went back to the city to tell the men in the city who she had met at Jacob's well.

WE: We cannot hide our sins from Jesus Christ; He knows all about them and He knows how to get rid of them. They may be kept secret from everyone on earth, but Jesus knows your secret. We need to

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confess our sins to Him and try not to sin again. Be like the Samaritan woman; tell your friends about Jesus and what you know about Him.

IV. Jesus Knows Your Thoughts - John 4:27, 31-38

When the disciples returned, they saw that Jesus had been talking with the woman of Samaria. They were surprised and wondered why He would talk to a Samaritan, but none of them asked Him why He was speaking with her. Even though they did not say anything, Jesus still knew what they were thinking. After the woman left to go into the city to get her friends, the disciples asked Jesus to eat the food that they had bought to Him. But Jesus said to them, "I have food that you do not know about." Once again the disciples were surprised. They wondered, "Had someone else brought food for Him to eat?" They did not understand what Jesus meant, but no one said anything to Him. Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He told them that His food was to do the will of His Father. He was telling them that there were some things more important to Him than eating. The most important work for Him was to be doing the work of His Father by telling people how they could be saved. Just then many people of Samaria came out to see Jesus as a result of the woman's witness about Him. Many of these people were saved that day, too.

The disciples did not need to tell Jesus what they were thinking because He already knew. He was able to look into their minds and He knew every thought that they had.

WE: Even though we may think our thoughts are kept secret, Jesus knows all about our thoughts. Jesus knows what we think as well as what we do. We need to be sure to think about good things and then we will not be ashamed that Jesus knows about our thoughts. It will also keep our mind clean (Psalm 19:14).

BE (for Action): You have just heard the story of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at Jacob's well. Did the woman know who was talking with her? (No) Did Jesus know who was talking with Him? Yes, and He also knew all about her sins.) Does Jesus know all about your sins? (Yes) He knows everything about you. You do not have one sin that you can keep from Jesus, because He is God. What are four things that Jesus knows about you? (Your activities, your need, your sin, and your thoughts) If you have been trying to hide some things in your life from Jesus, stop trying. Instead you should confess your sins to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you by receiving Him as your Savior. (Give an invitation for the children to confess all their known sins to Jesus and receive Him as their Savior.)