



### SESSION THREE

# Jesus Cares for a Samaritan Woman

## SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-42

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

*[Love] is not rude.* 1 Corinthians 13:5

## LESSON FOCUS

God's love is for everyone.

## BIBLE AIMS

During this session, each child may

1. TELL that Jesus cared about the woman at the well;
2. IDENTIFY ways to care about people of all ages;
3. ASK God's help in caring for others.

## TEACHER'S DEVOTIONAL

The car that just cut you off has a bumper sticker that reads, "It's all about ME!" More than ever, people seem to accept rude, selfish behavior as acceptable, perhaps even desirable. The current thinking seems to hold that it's okay to show love to others, but the most important thing is to love yourself first.

What does authentic love, God's love, teach us about dealing with others?

Considering another person first—regardless of power, popularity or position—expresses love free from rudeness and self-seeking. God's love for us is the only real basis for our personal dignity or worth. Contrast Jesus' words to the outcast, derided Samaritan woman with the ways pagan cultures treat their weak, poor or outcast. Only God's love and grace give us the ability to show others kind behavior, gracious words and unselfish deeds.

Compassion and consideration for others is a natural outgrowth of receiving God's unconditional love in Christ. Only forgiven hearts produce genuinely loving actions and attitudes. When we show grace to another, instead of being rude or self-seeking, our actions acknowledge that we have received God's grace. It also gives both example and permission to the forgiven one to show grace to another. A worldwide revolution in true love begins right here, right now—as we show God's love to the children in our classes, our VBS coworkers and the other people we encounter in our everyday lives.



# Bible Learning Activities

(40-45 minutes)

The activity marked ♦ will be shared during Together Time.

## Materials Checklist

For each teacher and child—

- ♦ Name Tag

## Materials Checklist

- ♦ card table
- ♦ tablecloth
- ♦ large pitcher
- ♦ water
- ♦ instant lemonade mix
- ♦ large spoon
- ♦ small plastic pitchers
- ♦ cash register
- ♦ plastic cups
- ♦ pads of scratch paper
- ♦ markers
- ♦ poster board
- ♦ sponges or paper towels

For each child—

- ♦ several pieces of toy money

## WELCOME TIME

**PROCEDURE:** The Lord knows each one of us by name! Do you know the name of each child in your VBS class? Consistently using a child's name demonstrates that you value him or her as an individual. Personally greet each child and then assist him or her in choosing which Bible Learning Activity to participate in first.

## THE SANDY BEACH (DRAMATIC PLAY)

### ISLAND LEMONADE STAND

**PREPARATION:** Set up card table and place tablecloth on top. Follow package directions to make lemonade in large pitcher. Then pour lemonade into smaller pitchers, filling them halfway. Place cash register, toy money, cups, pads of paper and markers on table. Write "Lemonade Stand" on a piece of poster board. Give each child some toy money. (Note: You may want to monitor the amount of lemonade that each child drinks.)

**PROCEDURE:** Children place sign in play area. One or two children stand behind table and operate stand, writing orders on pads and pouring lemonade into cups. (Be available to help with the pouring, if needed.) Another child works the cash register, taking money and making change. When finished, use wet sponges or paper towels for clean up.



**KEY CONVERSATION:** Who likes to drink lemonade? What are some other drinks that you like, Ethan? We're going to have a lemonade stand on our island today. Let's pour our lemonade into cups and sell it to our friends. Heather, thank you for taking lemonade to our helper, Mrs. Garcia. You knew that she couldn't come to get lemonade herself and you showed that you cared about her when you took her lemonade.

Our Bible says, [Love] is not rude. That means that you are kind and show God's love when you care about others. God's love is caring. Who are some people that you care about here at SonTreasure Island? Let's tell God "thank You" for caring about us and for helping us care for others. Lead children in a short prayer.

**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Omit real lemonade and use water instead. Children pretend to make and drink lemonade.

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:** Children mix lemonade themselves.



# JACQUES' AQUARIUM (SCIENCE AND WATER ACTIVITIES)

## BUBBLES, BUBBLES, AND MORE BUBBLES!

**PREPARATION:** Punch two holes in the lid of each margarine tub (see sketch). Pour a small amount of bubble mixture in the tub, and replace lid. (Optional: To make colored bubbles, mix a few drops of food coloring into bubble mixture, or children fill eyedroppers with color and drop color directly on top of bubbles.)

**PROCEDURE:** Children decorate the outside of margarine containers with stickers. They stick straws into one hole, and then blow into bubble mixture and watch bubbles come out of the other hole.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Today we are going to see what happens when we blow air through straws into bubble juice. Eva, what happened when you blew air through your straw quickly? Slowly? You are learning how to do science experiments!

Megan, thank you for giving Peter the dolphin sticker. When you give someone something that you want, you are being kind. Being kind is a way to care about others. Who is someone older than you that you can be kind to? Who is someone younger? We can show God's love to people of all ages by caring for them.

**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Use chenille wire to shape bubble wands for children to use instead of straws.



### Materials Checklist

◆ Island Assortment Stickers (available from Gospel Light) or marine animal stickers

◆ hole punch

◆ premade or homemade bubble mixture

#### For each child—

◆ margarine tub with lid

◆ straw

#### Optional—

◆ food coloring

◆ eyedroppers

# COOKY ISLAND (ART)

## ON THE BEACH MOSAICS

**PREPARATION:** Photocopy onto card stock several copies of each pattern, making at least one pattern for each child. Cut out. In containers, dilute glue with a small amount of water.

**PROCEDURE:** Children choose one On the Beach Pattern. Children use paintbrushes to spread a thin layer of glue on patterns. They tear tissue paper into pieces and then press on top of glue, overlapping pieces to create a mosaic look. Children repeat process with other patterns as time allows.

**NOTE:** If you will be adding to the mural made in Session 1, use masking tape loops to attach completed items to sand.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Brittany, you are using red and yellow tissue on your beach ball. What else do you see that is red and yellow?

I see that you are sharing the glue with James. God doesn't want us to be rude and think only about ourselves. When we share with others, we show that we care about them. Who are some people at your home that you can share with? (Little brother. Mom. Grandpa.) I'm glad God loves us and shows us how to care for our friends and family. God's love is caring. Let's thank God for His love and for helping us to care about others.

**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Children use watercolors to paint patterns.

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:** Children use scissors to cut tissue paper squares.



### Materials Checklist

◆ On the Beach Patterns (p. 53)

◆ white card stock

◆ scissors

◆ shallow containers

◆ white glue

◆ water

◆ paintbrushes

◆ tissue paper in various colors

## ◇ THE TREASURE CHEST (BLOCKS)

### BUILD YOUR BOATS

**PREPARATION:** Spread blue fabric or blankets on the floor to represent water. Cut string or yarn in approximately 8-inch (20.5-cm) lengths.

**PROCEDURE:** Children invert shoe boxes to represent docks and bathouses and place them around blankets. Children then use blocks to build boats and rafts next to docks. They use string or yarn to “tie” boats to docks. Children use Scenic Island block boats to move toy people from one dock to another.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** A dock is a place where boats go to be repaired or to load and unload things. Today we are going to build boats



and docks. Sam, where are some places you would like to go in your boat? I saw you help Max today by giving him a piece of yarn to tie his boat. Thank you for caring about Max. God’s love is caring. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about how Jesus loved and cared for a woman.

**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Use masking tape to outline small boats on the floor. Children use blocks to fill in outlines.

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:** Children place toy fish in the water and use toy people to stand on docks and pretend to fish.

## CLEANUP TIME

Signal Cleanup Time each session by playing a song from *SonTreasure Island CD*. Sing with children as they assist in cleanup. To involve a child in helping with chores, bend to child’s eye level, call him or her by name and give one simple direction at a time. As each child finishes cleanup tasks, he or she moves to area where teacher is ready to begin Together Time activities.

### Materials Checklist

- ◆ Scenic Island blocks made in Session 1
- ◆ 3 to 4 pieces of blue fabric or blankets
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ string or yarn
- ◆ small shoe boxes
- ◆ blocks in various shapes and sizes
- ◆ toy people



# Together Time

(10-15 minutes)

For younger children, use only the activities marked ♦.

♦ **SONG:** Play “Around and ‘Round” from *SonTreasure Island CD*. Sing song once with children. Then sing again and lead children in motions while singing song.

♦ **WELCOME/JACQUES PARROT PUPPET:** Puppet enters. **Hello. I saw some of you making lemonade earlier. I like the way you all worked together and helped each other make your lemonade stand and share your lemonade. When we work together and help each other, we are showing that we care for each other. Put your hand on your head if you can say the name of someone you care about.** Volunteers name a person. **It is always good to care for others. I think I will go home and give my mom a big hug and tell her how much I care about her!** Puppet exits.

♦ **FINGER PLAY:** “I Play”

I play with the dolphins; I play with the whales,  
I play with the fishies that wiggle their tails.



I play in the water; I play in the sand,  
I play in the tide pools whenever I can.



I play with the flowers; I play in the trees,  
I play with the seagulls that fly in the breeze.



**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Omit the second stanza to shorten the finger play.

**SHARING:** Some of you used blocks to make boats and docks today. Put both of your hands up in the air if you have ever been on a boat. Building with blocks is fun. I liked the way you all shared your blocks and played so nicely together. When you share with others, you are showing that you care about them. God’s love is caring.

♦ **BIBLE VERSE:** Hold Bible open. **Our Bible tells us, [Love] is not rude. What does it mean to be rude?** (Shoving ahead of someone in line. Shouting out when someone else is talking.) **When you are rude, you are being unkind and thinking only about yourself. But when you care about others, you are showing God’s love to them. God’s love is caring. Let’s say the verse together so we can remember what our Bible says. First, let’s say the verse very loudly.** Children repeat verse. **Now let’s say the verse very softly.**

**SONG:** Play “Treasure Forever” from CD and lead children in singing and doing motions for song.

♦ **PRAYER:** Pray aloud with children, **Dear God, help us to care about other people and how they feel.** Then ask God to help each individual child show love and care to others.

♦ **TRANSITION:** In our Bible story today we are going to hear about how Jesus showed He cared about a woman He met at a well.

## Materials Checklist

- ♦ Bible
- ♦ *SonTreasure Island CD* and player
- ♦ Jacques Parrot Puppet

# Bible Story/Application

(10-15 minutes)

## Materials Checklist

- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Figures 11-14 from Teaching Resources
- ◆ bucket
- ◆ crayons or markers

For each child—

- ◆ Session 3 Treasure Guide

**PREPARATION:** Before class, prefold *Treasure Guide* pages to form storybooks, and then reopen pages. In class, children will find it easier to refold the page.

## JESUS CARES FOR A SAMARITAN WOMAN

(Hold Bible open to John 4 as you expressively tell the story. Do motions and show figures as indicated.)

Show bucket. **What are some things we use buckets for?** Volunteers tell ideas. **In Bible times, people used containers like buckets to get their water from deep holes in the ground. The holes were called wells. Listen to find out what happened when Jesus was at a well.**

### JESUS SITS BY A WELL

Step, step, step. One day Jesus and His friends were walking along a hot, dusty road. (*Pat hands on floor to make stepping sounds.*) They had walked a long time. And they were tired and hungry. (*Rub stomach.*) When they came to a town, Jesus' friends went to buy some food. (*Show Figure 11.*) Jesus sat down to rest beside a well outside the town until His friends brought back the food.

While Jesus was resting, a woman came to the well. She carried a big bucket to get some cool, fresh water from the well. (*Show Figure 12 and 13.*)

### JESUS TALKS TO A WOMAN

"Will you please give Me a drink of water?" Jesus asked her. The woman was very surprised that this man would speak to her. (*Open eyes wide.*) People from Jesus' country didn't usually even TALK to people from her country!

"Why do you ask me for a drink?" the woman wanted to know. She didn't know who Jesus was. She didn't know anything about Jesus. But Jesus knew everything about her! And Jesus cared about her. Jesus told her about things she had done. The woman wondered how this man knew all about her. She said, "God has promised to send us a Savior to help us. He will help us understand what is true."

Jesus looked at the woman. Then He told her, "I am the One that God promised to send."

### TOWNSPEOPLE COME TO HEAR JESUS

Well! Can you imagine how surprised and happy this woman must have been to hear this good news? The people in her town had been waiting all their lives for God to send the Savior! (*Show Figure 14.*) The woman left her water bucket and ran to tell the people in her town what she had heard. (*Pat hands on the floor quickly.*) "Come and see a man who knows all about me! Do you think He was sent by God?"

The people in the town heard the woman and followed her back to the well. The people crowded around Jesus to hear every word He said.

"Please stay in our town," the people begged Jesus. "Tell us more." So Jesus stayed with them for two days. Jesus told them about God. Many people believed what Jesus said, and they loved Jesus, too!

### CONCLUSION

**Jesus showed He cared for the woman at the well when He talked to her and told her about God. The Bible says, [Love] is not rude. We can be glad that God knows us and**

**cares about us. God's love is caring!** Lead children in prayer, saying, **Thank You, God, for loving us. Help us learn ways to care for others and show Your love to them. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## APPLICATION

Teachers and helpers sit at tables with children. Pass out *Treasure Guide* page and crayons or markers. Children fold page to make mini-storybook.

To review the Bible story, children follow along as you read the "Jesus Cares for a Samaritan Woman" story. **What did the woman come to the well to get?** (Water.) **What did Jesus say to the woman?** (Jesus told her about things she had done.) **What did Jesus tell the woman about Himself?** ("I am the One that God promised to send.") **Jesus talked to this woman to show that He cared about her. Jesus shows that He cares about us, too, and helps us to care for others.**

Children unfold mini-storybook and repeat Bible verse after you. **God doesn't want us to be rude and think only about ourselves. He wants us to care about how others feel, too. God's love is for everyone.** Children complete "Caring Heart" activity. **Who are some people that you care about?** (Friends. Grandpa. Cousins. Mom.) **What are some things you can do to show that you care?** (Find an adult to help your friend when he or she gets hurt. Let a friend borrow a toy because you know that he or she would like to play with it.)

## Recreation Game

(10-15 minutes)

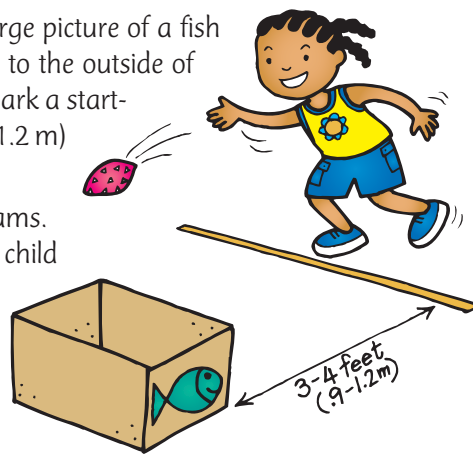
### FEED THE FISH!

**PREPARATION:** Using markers, draw a large picture of a fish on box. (Optional: Glue collage of fish pictures to the outside of the box.) Use masking tape, chalk or rope to mark a starting line. Place "fish" box about 3 to 4 feet (.9 to 1.2 m) from starting line.

**PROCEDURE:** Group children into two teams. Teams stand behind starting line. Give the first child in each line a beanbag. At your signal, first child on each team tries to "feed the fish" by throwing his or her beanbag into the box. After throwing beanbag, child retrieves it, hands it to next child in line and moves to the back of the line. Then the next child tries to throw the beanbag into the box. Continue until each child has had a turn.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** God gives fish food to eat, just like He gives us food to eat. Today we are going to pretend these beanbags are fish food and we are going to feed the fish.

**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Children take turns tossing beanbags into fish. Do not divide children into teams or use a masking-tape line.



### Materials Checklist

- ◆ markers
- ◆ large open cardboard box
- ◆ masking tape, chalk or rope

#### For each team—

- ◆ one beanbag

#### Optional—

- ◆ glue stick
- ◆ fish pictures



# Snack/Craft

(25-40 minutes)

## Materials Checklist

### Food items—

- ◆ blue food coloring
- ◆ large tub of soft cream cheese
- ◆ 16 celery stalks
- ◆ fish-shaped crackers in tropical colors

### Optional—

- ◆ round crackers

### Utensils—

- ◆ paper plates
- ◆ plastic knives

Serves 16.

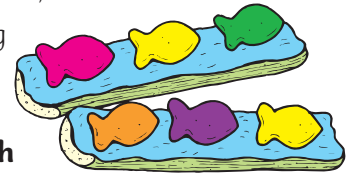
## SNACK ♦ FISH IN THE OCEAN (10-20 minutes)

**PREPARATION:** Mix several drops of blue food coloring into cream cheese.

**PROCEDURE:** Children wash and dry hands. **Where do fish live?** (In a pond. In an aquarium. In the ocean.) **Fish need to live in water. What colors did God make fish?**

**Fish come in many different colors. Today we are going to make colorful fish that are swimming in water. Then we get to eat them!** Children use plastic knives to spread cream cheese onto celery stalk and then top with fish crackers. (Optional: Children spread blue cream cheese onto round crackers and top with fish crackers.)

**NOTE:** Post a note alerting parents to the food items used in today's snack. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.



## CRAFT ♦ WOMAN AT THE WELL (15-20 minutes)

Children make Woman at the Well craft. For complete craft instructions, see "Woman at the Well" in *Island Crafts for Kids*.

# Music Fun/Good-Byes

(10-15 minutes)

## Materials Checklist

- ◆ Bible
- ◆ SonTreasure Island CD and player
- ◆ Jacques Parrot Puppet
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ card stock
- ◆ ruler
- ◆ marine animal stickers

Play CD as children gather.

**SONG:** Play "Before All Time" from *SonTreasure Island CD*. Lead children in singing song while doing motions.

**GAME:** Cut card stock into one 3-inch (7.5-cm) square for each child. Put a marine animal sticker in the middle of each square. Pass out squares, giving several children squares with the same stickers. Children match stickers and stand together by type. Collect squares and play more rounds as time and interest allow.

**BIBLE VERSE:** Open your Bible. **Our Bible says, [Love] is not rude. Let's say our Bible verse together.** Children repeat verse. **Now let's say the verse one word at a time.** Allow volunteers to repeat the words individually.



**PRAYER:** Let's talk to God now. Children repeat phrases of this prayer after you. **Thank You, God, for loving us. Help us remember to be caring and not rude. Help us to show Your love to others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**GOOD-BYE/JACQUES PARROT PUPPET:** Puppet enters. **Who wants to say our Bible verse for our friend Jacques?** Volunteers say verse. Jacques says, **I'm glad you learned about caring for others while you were at SonTreasure Island today!** Remove children's name tags and distribute take-home materials.

