



SESSION THREE

Jesus Cares for a Samaritan Woman

SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-42

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

[Love] is not rude, it is not self-seeking. 1 Corinthians 13:5

LESSON FOCUS

God's love is for everyone.

BIBLE AIMS

During this session, each student may

1. DISCOVER that Jesus showed God's love to a Samaritan woman whom others might have ignored;
2. IDENTIFY situations in which it might be hard to show God's love;
3. ASK God to help him or her show God's love to people whom others may not care about;
4. PRAY to become a member of God's family, as the Holy Spirit leads.

BIBLE STORY RECAP

One day Jesus and His friends were in Samaria. They came to a well and Jesus sat down to rest. His friends went to the nearby town to buy food. Then a woman came to get water at the well. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. The woman was surprised! Men rarely spoke to women, and Jews almost NEVER spoke to Samaritans! Jesus showed God's love to a woman most people would have expected Him to ignore.

Jesus and the woman talked and Jesus told her He could give her living water. Jesus meant He could give her life from God that would last forever. Jesus told her so many amazing things that the woman ran to the town and told everyone about Jesus, the Savior! Many people believed that Jesus was the Savior.

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.

