



## 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.



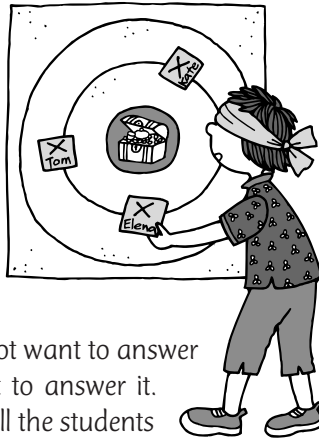
# BIBLE STORY REVIEW GAME

## X MARKS THE SPOT!

**PREPARATION:** Photocopy appropriate age-level Treasure Cards. Cut out Treasure Cards and place in container. Photocopy Treasure Chest, cut out and glue to center of large sheet of paper. Draw a series of circles around treasure chest to make a target (see sketch). Tape paper to wall. Make a starting line about 10 feet (3 m) from target.

**PROCEDURE:** Hand each student a Post-it Note. Students write their names and make a large X on note. Students line up behind starting line and take turns wearing blindfold and then trying to place Post-it Note on the treasure chest.

When all the notes have been placed, call on student whose note is closest to (or on) the treasure chest. He or she selects a Treasure Card from container, reads question aloud and answers it. If student does not want to answer the question, he or she may call on another student to answer it. Student places card back in container. Continue until all the students have had a turn to select a Treasure Card.



## Materials Checklist

- ◆ "Treasure Cards (pp. 40-42)
- ◆ Treasure Chest (p. 39)
- ◆ scissors or paper cutter
- ◆ container (small treasure chest, basket, paper bag, etc.)
- ◆ glue
- ◆ large sheet of paper
- ◆ markers
- ◆ masking tape
- ◆ blindfold

**For each student—**  
◆ Post-it Note

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Jesus' actions showed love to the Samaritan woman—love she had been thirsting for. Even though the people in her own town may not have cared for her, Jesus did. In the same way, we can show God's love to others by caring about them and their problems. God's love is for everyone! But sometimes it isn't easy to show God's love. Who is someone it might be hard to show God's love to? (A bully. Someone who calls others names. Someone our friends don't like.)

Even though it's sometimes hard, God wants us to show His love to everyone. What does today's Daily Treasure tell us about God's love? (God's Love Is Caring.) This reminds us that God cares for everyone, all the time! Whenever we show we care about others and their problems, we're sharing the treasure of God's love.

**PRIMARY SIMPLIFICATION:** Some students may not be comfortable being blindfolded. Ask these students to simply close their eyes. Read cards aloud. Students tell why false statements are false.

**PRETEEN CHALLENGE:** Help students spin around three times before walking toward bull's-eye.

## Primary Questions

- ◆ Jesus and His friends were traveling in Galilee. True or False? (F)
- ◆ Jewish people did not like Samaritans. True or False? (T)
- ◆ Jesus' friends went to town to get some water. True or False? (F)
- ◆ A woman went to get water at the well. True or False? (T)
- ◆ The woman was not surprised when Jesus spoke to her. True or False? (F)
- ◆ Jesus offered the woman living water that lasts forever. True or False? (T)

- ◆ **Instead of water you drink, Jesus was really talking about life from God that will last forever. True or False? (T)**
- ◆ **Jesus said nothing was more important than where you worship. True or False? (F)**
- ◆ **Jesus told the woman all about her life. True or False? (T)**
- ◆ **The woman told the people of the town that Jesus was the promised Savior. True or False? (T)**

### **Middler Questions**

- ◆ **Where were Jesus and His friends traveling? (Samaria.)**
- ◆ **What people did Jews usually avoid? (Samaritans.)**
- ◆ **Where did Jesus' friends go? (To town. To get some food.)**
- ◆ **Who came to the well around noon? (A woman with a water jar.)**
- ◆ **Name one reason the woman was surprised Jesus spoke to her. (Men didn't usually talk to women. Jews didn't usually talk to Samaritans.)**
- ◆ **What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman? (Living water. Water that lasts forever.)**
- ◆ **Instead of water you drink, what was Jesus really talking about? (Life from God that will last forever.)**
- ◆ **What did Jesus say was more important than where you worship? (What is in the heart and mind when worshiping.)**
- ◆ **What did Jesus tell the woman about herself that surprised her? (Jesus told her all about her life.)**
- ◆ **What did the woman tell the people of the town about Jesus? (That Jesus had told her all about her life. That Jesus was the promised Savior.)**

### **Preteen Questions**

- ◆ **What people did Jews usually avoid? (Samaritans.)**
- ◆ **Who are some people you and your friends might not usually talk to?**
- ◆ **Why do you think the woman went to the well when no one else was around? (She didn't want to see the other people in her town. She may have felt unwanted and rejected by the people in her town.)**
- ◆ **Name one reason the woman was surprised Jesus spoke to her. (Men didn't usually talk to women. Jews didn't usually talk to Samaritans.)**
- ◆ **Describe the water Jesus offered the woman. (Living water. Water that lasts forever. Life from God that will last forever.)**
- ◆ **How can we receive the "living water" Jesus talked about? (Believe Jesus is the Savior and saves us from our sins. Become members of God's family.)**
- ◆ **What did Jesus say was more important than where you worship? (What is in the heart and mind when you worship.)**
- ◆ **What did Jesus tell the woman about herself that surprised her? (Jesus told her all about her life.)**
- ◆ **How would you feel if Jesus told you all about your life? (Surprised. Amazed.)**
- ◆ **What did the woman tell the townspeople about Jesus? (That Jesus had told her all about her life. That Jesus was the promised Savior.)**



# MEMORY VERSE GAME

## SHELL GAME

**PREPARATION:** Display poster. On each team's shells, print today's verse, one or two words or the reference on each shell. Place a set of shells in each team's container. Spread tablecloth or tarp on floor. Place each container a few feet apart on tablecloth or tarp. Pour a few inches of sand into each container, and then add water so that there are a few inches of water above the sand level. Make a masking-tape starting line about 20 feet (6 m) from containers. Using pieces of tape, make a loopy path to each container. (Optional: Play game outside. Instead of container, use a wading pool. Print each team's verse using a different color of marker and place all in the wading pool. Use chalk to make starting line and path.)

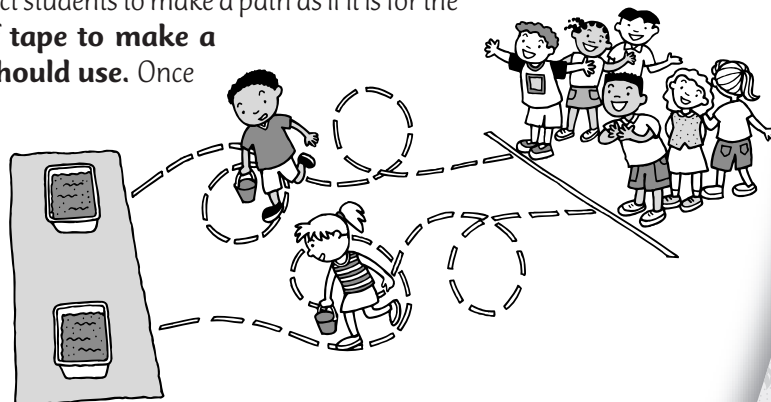
**PROCEDURE:** Point to poster and read verse aloud, asking students to read along with you. Students divide into teams of four or five students. Teams line up behind starting line. Hand sand bucket to first player on each team. On your signal, players carry sand bucket as they walk quickly along the path to reach the containers. Each player searches for a shell. When player finds a shell, he or she places it in the bucket and carries it back along the path to the team. Player hands bucket to next player who completes the same task. When all the shells are collected, teams race to put shells in verse order. Hide shells and repeat game as time permits.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** This verse tells what God's love is NOT like. If God's love is not rude or self-seeking, what does that tell us God's love IS like? (Saying kind things, even if someone else is rude. Giving other people first turns or first choice.)

**What does today's Daily Treasure tell us about God's love?** (God's Love Is Caring.) **When we show that we care about the needs of others more than our own, we're sharing the treasure of God's love. We do that because God's love is for everyone!**

**PRIMARY SIMPLIFICATION:** Number shells in verse order. Instead of a loopy path, make path very simple with one or two zigzags instead.

**PRETEEN CHALLENGE:** Instruct students to make a path as if it is for the other team to follow. **Use pieces of tape to make a path you think the other team should use.** Once paths are completed, tell students they will have to follow the paths themselves. Ask students to apply this twist to the meaning of the verse. (If students were not self-seeking, or trying to make an advantage for their own team, they would have made a simple path for the other team.)



## Materials Checklist

- ◆ Session 3 Memory Verse Poster from *Elementary Teaching Resources*
- ◆ permanent marker
- ◆ plastic tablecloth or tarp
- ◆ sand
- ◆ water
- ◆ masking tape

### For each team of 4 or 5 students—

- ◆ 8 to 10 shells
- ◆ deep-sided container (roasting pan, storage tub, etc.)
- ◆ sand bucket

### Optional—

- ◆ wading pool
- ◆ several colors of permanent markers
- ◆ chalk



**Jesus and His friends were traveling in Galilee.  
True or False?**



**Jesus offered the woman living water that lasts forever.  
True or False?**



**Jewish people did not like Samaritans.  
True or False?**



**Instead of water you drink, Jesus was really talking about life from God that will last forever.  
True or False?**



**Jesus' friends went to town to get some water.  
True or False?**



**Jesus said nothing was more important than where you worship.  
True or False?**



**A woman went to get water at the well.  
True or False?**



**Jesus told the woman all about her life.  
True or False?**



**The woman was not surprised when Jesus spoke to her.  
True or False?**



**The woman told the people of the town that Jesus was the promised Savior.  
True or False?**



**Where were Jesus  
and His friends traveling?**



**What kind of water  
did Jesus offer the woman?**



**What people did Jews  
usually avoid?**



**Instead of water you drink,  
what was Jesus really  
talking about?**



**Where did Jesus' friends go?**



**What did Jesus say was  
more important than  
where you worship?**



**Who came to the  
well around noon?**



**What did Jesus tell the  
woman about herself  
that surprised her?**



**Name one reason the  
woman was surprised  
Jesus spoke to her.**



**What did the woman tell  
the people of the town  
about Jesus?**



**What people did Jews usually avoid?**



**Who are some people you and your friends might not usually talk to?**



**Why do you think the woman went to the well when no one else was around?**



**Name one reason the woman was surprised Jesus spoke to her.**



**Describe the water Jesus offered the woman.**



**How can we receive the “living water” Jesus talked about?**



**What did Jesus say was more important than where you worship?**



**What did Jesus tell the woman about herself that surprised her?**



**How would you feel if Jesus told you all about your life?**



**What did the woman tell the townspeople about Jesus?**

