



PRIMARY ♦ 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

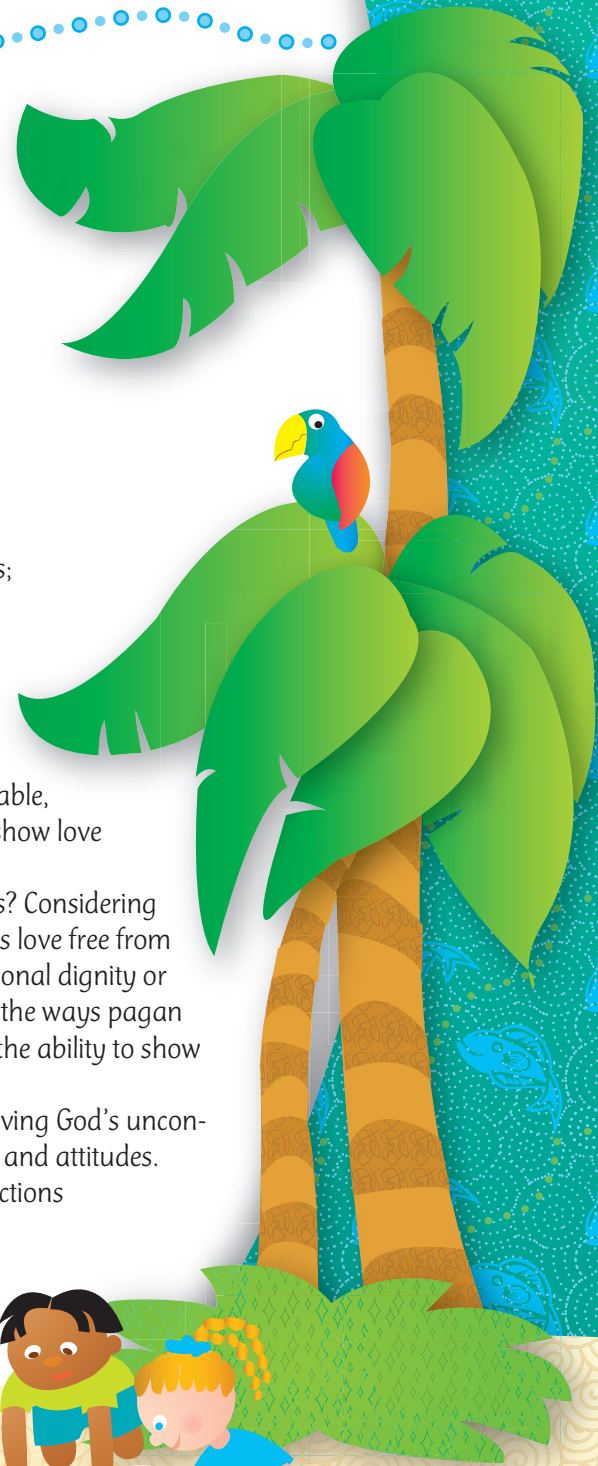
1. TELL ways that Jesus showed love to the Samaritan woman;
2. IDENTIFY ways to show God's love by caring about others and their needs;
3. ASK God to help him or her show God's love;
4. PRAY to become a member of God's family, as the Holy Spirit leads.

## 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.



# 1. Set the Story

(5-10 minutes)

If you only have 25 minutes for this center, omit Set the Story.

## Materials Checklist

- ◆ SonTreasure Island CD and player

### For each student—

- ◆ 1 Lifesavers® candy (plus one extra for the class)
- ◆ plastic spoon

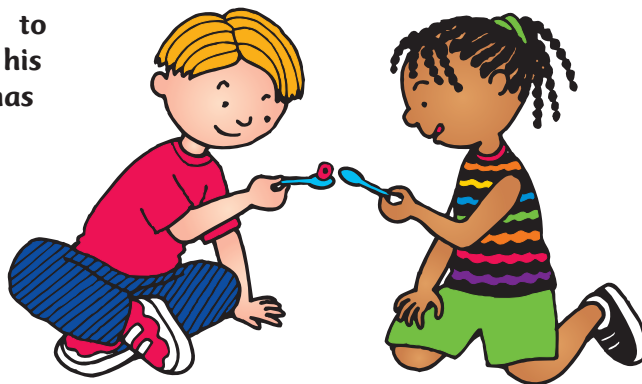
## OPTION A: LIFESAVER PASS

**PROCEDURE:** How would you feel if everyone but you got a special snack? Today we're going to play a game and make sure everyone gets a treat! Play "God's Love Is for You" from CD. Give each student a spoon. Students sit in a circle and use spoons to pass a Lifesavers® candy around the circle. Give the student holding the candy when the music stops another candy to eat. He or she then starts the next round with the original candy. Continue until each student receives a candy, or, if time is limited, offer a candy to anyone who has not received one.

### KEY CONVERSATION:

Helping everyone to

have a snack is a way to care about his or her needs. What is a way someone has cared for you and helped you have what you need? (My mom gives me food. My grandpa helps me with my homework. My sister drives me to my piano lesson.) When we care about others and what they need, we are showing God's love.



## OPTION B: FISH TOSS

**PREPARATION:** On card stock, photocopy a set of Fish Cards for each team of three or four students. Cut out cards. To weight cards, place a large paper clip at the top of each card. Keep cards in sets. Place bowl in the center of tablecloth or tarp.

**PROCEDURE:** Help students form teams of three or four. Each team stands in a circle around the edge of tablecloth or tarp. Give four Fish Cards to each student. At your signal, students try to toss the cards into their team's bowl. After tossing all cards, students collect any that have landed on the floor, stand at the edge of tablecloth or tarp and try to toss cards into bowl again. Teams continue until all of their cards are in the bowl. Team members then race to put the Fish Cards in verse order. At the end of the game, read the verse aloud. Repeat as time permits.

**TABLE-TOP ALTERNATIVE:** For each group of three or four, make four copies of Fish Cards, cut apart and mix cards together. Lay all cards facedown on a table. Groups play a game like Concentration: Each student turns over two cards at a time, trying to match cards. Each student collects his or her matched cards until all cards have been matched.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Our Bible verse today says that love is not self-seeking. What do you think the words “self-seeking” and “rude” mean? (Only caring about myself and not caring about the needs of others.) When might a kid your age be rude? When is a time someone can choose not to be rude and instead help another person? When we care about others and their needs, we are showing God’s love.



### Materials Checklist

- ◆ Fish Cards (p. 44)
- ◆ card stock
- ◆ scissors or paper cutter
- ◆ large paper clips

#### For each team of 3 or 4 students—

- ◆ plastic or metal bowl
- ◆ large tablecloth or tarp



## 2. Tell the Story (10 minutes)

### Materials Checklist

- ◆ Bibles
- ◆ Session 3 Bible Story Poster from Elementary Teaching Resources
- ◆ small Post-it Notes

**PREPARATION:** Display Session 3 Bible Story Poster. Use Post-it Notes to mark John 4 in Bibles before class.

## JESUS CARES FOR A SAMARITAN WOMAN John 4:1-42

### Introduction

**How might kids your age feel when people make fun of them? us or are unkind to us. Listen to find out how Jesus treated someone many other people did not care for.**

Hold up Bible. **Today's Bible story is from the book of John.** Students find John 4 in their Bibles.

### A Stop in Samaria

Jesus and His friends, called disciples, traveled many places to tell people about God's love. One day Jesus and His disciples, who were Jewish, went through the country of Samaria. Most Jewish people in Jesus' time would not go near Samaria. The Jews and Samaritans had disliked each other for hundreds of years. But Jesus had an important message for all people, and walking through Samaria was the best way to get where He was going.

It was a long trip! When Jesus and His disciples came near a town in Samaria, it was the middle of the day. Jesus must have been tired and hot! He stopped by a well to rest. **What do you think wells were like in Bible times?** (A well is a deep hole dug in the ground to reach water. In Bible times, a well usually had a wall of rocks built around it.) While Jesus rested, His disciples went into town to buy food.

### Storytelling Tip

Punctuate your story with purposeful movement. Plan several times in the story when gestures or movement would accentuate the story action.

Don't make unnecessary, distracting movements with your hands. If possible, move around the room as you tell the story.

### A Drink by a Well

Jesus saw a woman coming down the road toward Him. She was carrying a jug to fill with water from the well. When the woman got to the well, Jesus asked the woman to give Him a drink.

"What?" the woman asked in surprise. "You're a Jewish man, and I'm a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?" The Samaritan woman was surprised because, in Bible times, a man and a woman would not speak to each other if they met on the street. And Jews and Samaritans wouldn't usually talk to each other at all!

Jesus said, "If you knew who I am, you would ask Me for living water!" The woman didn't understand what Jesus meant.



“How can You give me living water?” the woman asked Jesus. “You don’t have a bucket or a rope, and this well is very deep. Where would You get this living water?” **Let’s read John 4:13 to find out where Jesus told the woman she could get the water.** (Read John 4:13 aloud.)

“Anyone who drinks water from this well will become thirsty again,” Jesus told the woman. “But whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give will last forever!”

“Give me some of that water!” the woman said. “Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come to the well every day to get water.” The woman thought Jesus was talking about water she could drink. She didn’t know that Jesus meant He could give her life that will last forever.

As Jesus and the woman kept talking, she found out that Jesus knew everything about her! And Jesus told her that He was the great Savior that God had promised to send. The Bible tells us the woman was so excited to learn about Jesus that she left her water jug at the well and hurried back to town.

### The Savior in Person!

“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!” the woman told the people in the town. “Could He be the Savior, the great ruler God promised to send?” **What do you think the people did?**

People from the town hurried to the well to see Jesus. If the Savior had come, they wanted to see Him! Many of the people believed that Jesus was the Savior because the woman had said, “He told me everything I have ever done.” Others wanted to learn more about who Jesus was. The woman in Samaria and the rest of the people in the town would never be the same.

### Conclusion

**The Samaritan woman discovered that Jesus loved her because He talked to her and cared about her needs. Every day, you can learn ways to show God’s love by caring about others and what they need, not just thinking about yourself. Showing God’s love by caring about people’s needs is like giving them a special treasure.**



**God sent Jesus to show His love to everyone! Jesus showed God’s love for us by dying on the cross for our sins—the wrong things we do. When we turn away from doing wrong things and ask to be God’s children, we can become part of God’s family.** Talk with interested children about becoming members of God’s family (see “Leading a Child to Christ” on p. 8).

### Bible Storytelling Option

Help students form three groups. Assign each group to be a different element of the Bible story. (Well. Town. Road.) Show each element on the Session 3 Bible Story Poster. Give each group a sheet of paper labeled with the name of its element. Arrange groups to form Bible story scene. As you tell the story, walk from place to place. As you arrive at each place, invite one student in each group to hold up the group’s sign. (For example, when saying, “When Jesus and His disciples came near a town in Samaria, it was the middle of the day,” ask one student from the group representing the town to hold up his or her group’s sign.)

### 3. Apply the Story (10-15 minutes)

#### Materials Checklist

◆ colored markers

For each student—

◆ Session 3 Treasure Guide page

Optional—

◆ SonTreasure Gem Stickers

#### BIBLE STORY REVIEW

To review Bible story, students complete “Jesus Cares for a Samaritan Woman” activity on Session 3 page. **What did Jesus do in today’s story that showed love to the Samaritan woman?** (He talked to her. He helped her know about God’s love.) **Why did the people from the town want to meet Jesus?** (Because Jesus could tell the woman everything she had done. The woman said that Jesus was God’s Son.)

Indicate the Daily Treasure logo on the page. **Today’s Daily Treasure says, “God’s Love Is Caring.”** These words tell us that God loves and cares about everyone! God wants us to show His love to other people and care about them instead of just thinking about ourselves.

#### MEMORY VERSE/APPLICATION

Students turn Session 3 page over. **God’s words are in the Bible. The Bible helps us know how to show God’s love to others.** Students follow along as you read verse aloud. (Optional: Give each student a SonTreasure Gem Sticker to place next to the memory verse.) **This verse says love is not rude or self-seeking. Let’s point to the red words “rude” and “self-seeking” on the page. When you are rude and self-seeking, it means you are selfish and think only about yourself. What are some ways you can think about others and care about their needs instead of just thinking about yourself?** (Share my candy with my little brother. Let my friend ride my skateboard. Take flowers to my neighbor.) **When we love others, we want to do things for them before we do things for ourselves.**

**Let’s look at some pictures of ways we can show we care about the needs of others.** Guide students to complete “Fish Fun” activity.

#### PRAYER

**In our Bible story today, Jesus showed that He cared about the Samaritan woman. Jesus loves everyone! When we know Jesus and accept His love, God helps us show His love to everyone, too!** Tell students an age-appropriate example of a time when showing love to someone may have been difficult for you. **Let’s ask God to help us show love to others and care about their needs.** Lead students in praying, asking God to help them show love to others.

