Session 4
Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman
John 4:5-42

Worship Theme:
Jesus satisfies.

Weaving Faith Into Life:
Children will worship Jesus because he fills them with satisfaction.

Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
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1 Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes) | Sing
- “I Have Been Crucified” (Galatians 2:20) (track 20)
- “The Spirit Gives Me Life” (Romans 8:10b) (track 5)
- “Doxology” (track 10)
- “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 21)
- “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 7)
- “Fairest Lord Jesus” (track 2)

KidsOwn Worship Kit:
Songs From FaithWeaver
Classroom Supplies:
CD player, pitcher of water, paper cups, wastebasket, cake pan, sponge, glass of water, paper, scissors

Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
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2 Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | Buckets of Satisfaction
Draw a bucket from the “well” and participate in the story.

Jesus Satisfies
Scoop water to praise Jesus for his goodness.

* Living Water
Use a paint wash to reveal a “secret.”

Preschool
Classroom Supplies:
Cardboard box, rope, bucket, photocopy of “Fruit of the Spirit” (p. 56), scissors

Classroom Supplies:
Containers, water, towel, 1 paper cup per child

Classroom Supplies:
Poster board, white crayon, permanent marker, 1 sponge piece per child, pan, blue tempera paint, water
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| **Let's Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | **“Water That Satisfies”**  
Hear about the woman at the well and do an activity. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
* Songs From FaithWeaver: “Fairest Lord Jesus” (track 2)  
* Classroom Supplies: CD player, permanent markers, 1 dry piece of sponge per child, 2 containers, water, towel |
| | **“The Living Water”**  
Watch a video and discuss the different ways that Jesus satisfies. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
* KidsOwn Worship DVD: “The Living Water” (3)  
* Classroom Supplies: TV, DVD player |
| | **Juicy Fruit**  
Compare a raisin and a grape, and then learn that Jesus living in us satisfies us. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
* Grapes, bowl, raisin, ruler, construction paper, scissors, pencils |
| **Let’s Pray!** *(up to 10 minutes)* | **The Offering**  
Give their offerings and praise Jesus for filling them. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
* Songs From FaithWeaver: “He Is Powerful” (track 15)  
* Classroom Supplies: CD player, offering bowls |
| | **The Palms Have It**  
Draw crosses and pray. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
* Washable markers |
| | **Spongy Praises**  
Play a game and think about how many times Jesus satisfies. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
* Sponges from “Water That Satisfies” (and “Living Water,” if preschooler did that activity) |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let’s Learn the Point! Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
This story is fairly familiar, but several interesting details can help bring it alive for any class.

Just before the events described in today’s passage, Jesus was in Judea and was heading back to Galilee. If you look at a map of the area, it seems obvious that the most natural route would be through the region of Samaria. However, because of the animosity between Jews and Samaritans, it was common for Jews to cross the Jordan to the east side and proceed northward, only to cross it again once they were past Samaria. But in this case, we read (in John 4:4) that Jesus “had” to go through Samaria. This was not because of geography, but because he had a mission to fulfill in Samaria!

Jesus came to the well at the sixth hour, which would have been noon in our reckoning of time. That meant it was the heat of the day. Women would usually go to the well to draw water in the cool of the day, either in the morning or the evening. The fact that this woman was there at noon likely indicated that she was unwelcome among the women who probably came in groups at cooler times.

The conflict between the Jews and the Samaritans went back to the time of the Israelites’ exile in Assyria. Some of the Jews who were left in the land married foreigners, who had been transplanted there by the Assyrians. Their children, then, were only half Jewish, and their religion was tainted by the idolatry of the other peoples’ religions. In addition, these people tried to prohibit the rebuilding of Jerusalem when Jews returned from exile in Babylon. Thus, the Jews looked upon Samaritans with disdain.

That Jesus would even talk with this Samaritan woman was particularly amazing. Being divorced twice or three times was acceptable in that culture, but beyond that put a person’s morality into question. The fact that this woman apparently had been divorced five times and was living with a sixth man made her a social outcast. But that didn’t matter to Jesus; he had living water to offer her!

When Jesus confronted the woman with what he knew about her history, she decided to change the subject and bring up an item of contention between Jews and Samaritans: Where was the appropriate place to worship God? She must have thought that would take the focus off her. But Jesus wouldn’t be distracted. He let her know that the place of worship wasn’t important; what mattered was that she worship God sincerely: “in spirit and in truth.”

The end of this passage shows us what this sinful woman found in Jesus: the Savior of the world! And because of her witness, many others believed in him, too. They all found the living water that brought them true life in Christ!

**Devotion for Leaders**

Your connection with Jesus is your living water. As you cultivate your friendship with Jesus through prayer and time in the Bible, you’ll discover refreshment—even during parched times.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** The Samaritan woman made a point to tell everyone she knew about Jesus. She found “living water,” and she wanted all her loved ones to “taste” what a friendship with Jesus was like. With whom are you sharing living water? Ask God to give you the names of two people with whom you can share Jesus.
**Why We Worship for Leaders**

When Jesus asked the woman at the well for a drink of water, what he really wanted was to give her “living water.” Jesus meant that he was living water, the only one who can truly satisfy our deepest needs. Just as all living things die without water, so we would die without Jesus. And just as he knew all about the woman at the well, Jesus knows all about us, including the ways we try to satisfy ourselves apart from him. Because of his great love for us, he was crucified like a common criminal and triumphed over death in order to be the living water that satisfies each of us. That’s the reason we worship him!

**Easy Prep for Leaders**

**Let’s Praise God!**—Set a pitcher of water and small paper drinking cups on a table near the entrance to the worship area. Put a wastebasket next to the table. Also set aside a glass of water, a cake pan, and a dry sponge. Have a piece of paper and scissors ready to use.

**Water That Satisfies**—Put water in a cake pan or other container, and put the pan on a towel at one end of a table. Set an empty pan or container next to it. You’ll need a piece of dry, compressed sponge for each child and one for yourself. Try to find the type of sponge that will expand as it soaks up water.

**“The Living Water”**—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* to “The Living Water” (3). You’ll want to watch it at least once before the session so you’re familiar with it.

**Juicy Fruit**—Cut construction paper into 5x7-inch rectangles. You’ll need one per child and one for yourself. Make extra to allow for errors.

**Preschool Activities**—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

**Web Help**—Get bonus leader tips and ideas at kidsownworship.com.

**Let’s Praise God!**

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Spring 2011* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Jesus satisfies.” Tell children to help themselves to a drink of water if they’re thirsty. Ask one or two of the kids who arrive first to stay near the table to refill the pitcher as needed and make sure that the cups get thrown away.

**Say** Welcome, everyone! We’re here to worship today because Jesus satisfies. Let’s praise him for his goodness that truly satisfies.

Sing “I Have Been Crucified” (Galatians 2:20).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** When you came to class today, some of you drank a glass of water.

**Ask** • Why did you drink the water? (I was thirsty; it was there.)

• What else is water good for? (Cleaning; helping things grow.)
Water satisfies us when we’re thirsty. All living things need water to stay alive. Today we’re going to learn that Jesus is the living water.

Ask • What do you think we mean when we say Jesus is the “living water”? (We need Jesus to be really alive; Jesus helps us grow.)

Say • Jesus is the one who satisfies, just as cold water satisfies us when we’re hot and thirsty. Jesus is the one who gives us life and fills us with good things. Hold a sponge over the cake pan and slowly pour water from the glass onto the sponge so that the sponge soaks up the water. Keep pouring slowly until water drips and flows out of the sponge into the pan.

Jesus is like this water. He refreshes us. He fills us to overflowing so that we have extra to give others—extra love, extra joy, extra peace, extra patience. As you sing the next song, think about the overflowing life you can have in Jesus.

Sing “The Spirit Gives Me Life” (Romans 8:10b).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say • Our next song says that everyone should praise God. In your heart, praise Jesus for satisfying you. He is worthy of our praise!

Sing the “Doxology.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say • We need to help others know who God is so that everyone throughout the world can praise him and have his overflowing life.

Sing “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say • Sometimes we feel sort of empty, even when things seem fine in our lives. Take a moment to think about times you have felt confused because, even though nothing is really wrong, deep down you feel alone and empty. (Pause.)

At times we all feel that way. It’s as if we have a hole inside us.

Fold the paper in half, and cut out a heart shape (see illustration). Then cut along the folded edge as shown in the illustration. Open up the heart to reveal the cross-shaped hole.

And there is a hole! Notice the shape of the hole I made in this heart. It’s a cross-shaped hole. There’s only one thing that fits that hole, and that’s Jesus. Of course you don’t actually have a cross-shaped hole in your heart, but you do have a need that only Jesus can fill. Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy us.

Let’s sing about him now.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me Rock.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
Jesus is our Savior. Jesus is the one we cherish and adore. Let's honor and worship him now and forever.

Sing “Fairest Lord Jesus.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

2. Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 51-52

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* Water That Satisfies

Set several permanent markers at the end of the table opposite the towel and containers.

We’re learning today that Jesus satisfies. There’s a story in the Gospel of John that shows us what this means. In the story, Jesus was tired and thirsty. A woman came to draw some water from the well, and Jesus asked her for a drink. So she gave him one. Then Jesus told her that he wanted to give her living water. He was talking about himself. He wanted to give her eternal life and true happiness.

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life” (John 4:13, New Century Version).

Jesus told the woman personal things about herself, things that he couldn’t know unless he was God. He knew she was lonely and searching for love in all the wrong places. Jesus wanted to give her what she couldn’t get for herself.
What did Jesus mean when he said he was the living water? (He could change her life; he could fill her with joy.)

Suppose you were the woman at the well. How would you decide whether Jesus was God or just a strange person? (I’d think about whether what he said made sense; I’d think about whether he seemed honest.)

If Jesus had talked to you, would you have believed him? Why? (Yes, because he knew about me and what I’ve done; maybe not, because I wouldn’t know if anyone else believed him.)

How could Jesus be living water for the woman? (He could give her new life in heaven; he could give her his love.)

How is Jesus living water for us? (Jesus washes away our sins; Jesus fills us where we feel empty.)

Pass out a dry sponge piece to each child.

Jesus wants to satisfy us. What do you need today? Are you lonely? mad at someone? Do you need help forgiving someone? Maybe you need to forgive yourself. Do you need help obeying your parents or being kind or patient? What are you lacking today? Jesus can satisfy those things. Let’s give him a chance to do that now.

Think of what you need from Jesus, and think of one word or a picture to represent what you need. When I tap you on the shoulder, come to the table and write the word or draw the picture on the sponge. Draw or write something on a sponge. Remember Jesus’ words, “The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life.” Jesus will fill you up, the way your sponge fills up with water. Dunk your sponge in the water. You’ll have enough left over to give to others. Squeeze the water into the empty container. After you’ve done this, sit down and wait quietly for everyone to have a turn. As you wait, praise Jesus silently for satisfying your needs.

Play “Fairest Lord Jesus” again in the background as children do the activity. If the waiting kids need help staying focused, have them sing the words to the song. Lyrics are in the back of this book.

When everyone has had a chance to participate, empty all the water into one container and have someone collect the sponges in the empty container for the “Spongy Praises” activity.
Preschool Activities

Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman

Session 4

Worship Theme:

Jesus satisfies.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Buckets of Satisfaction—Tie the rope to the bucket handle. Photocopy “Fruit of the Spirit” on page 56, and cut out the boxes.

Jesus Satisfies—Set two wide containers on a towel on the table. Put about 3 inches of water in one of the containers.

Living Water—Use white crayon to draw a large cross shape on white poster board. Trace over the cross with the crayon several times so the lines are quite heavy. Dilute blue tempera paint with water to make a pale blue “wash.” Put the paint in a pie tin or cake pan, and have a sponge piece for each child.

Buckets of Satisfaction

Have the children sit on the floor. Put the box “well” and the bucket next to you, and have the “Fruit of the Spirit” pictures with you but out of the children’s sight.

Welcome, preschoolers! Our Bible story today is about a woman who believed in God but didn’t know Jesus. One day she was getting water from a well. She didn’t have a sink and faucet in her house like we have. She had to walk to a well in her neighborhood. A well is a hole dug in the ground that fills up with water. She would lower her bucket down into the well. Lower the bucket into the cardboard box. It would fill up with water, and she’d pull it back up. Pull the bucket out of the “well.” Have children pretend to hold cups as you pour imaginary water from the bucket into each one.

She would take this water home to drink, to cook with, and to clean with. One day when she was getting water, Jesus was standing by the well, and he asked her for a drink. So she gave him one. Then Jesus told her that he wanted to give her living water. He meant that he wanted to fill her up with good things, such as love, peace, and forgiveness. He knew that only he could satisfy her. That means only he could make her happy. Let’s take turns lowering the bucket into the well and seeing what Jesus gives us to satisfy us.

Have children take turns lowering the bucket into the well. After each one lowers the bucket, drop one of the “Fruits of the Spirit” pictures into it. When children draw the bucket up, have them pull out the pictures and discuss them. Comment on the pictures; for example, you might say, “Look, Jesus gives us love,” or “Jesus gives us kindness.”

The woman in our story went to the well to get water. But she came back with something better—Jesus. Jesus satisfies!

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo lift out the first bucket in the “Buckets of Satisfaction” activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.
Preschool Activities

Jesus Satisfies

Gather children around the table.

Ask - What do we use water for?
Say - Water is important. Without water everything that’s alive would die! Jesus said he is like living water. That doesn’t mean he’s really water that we drink. That means that only he can make us happy and satisfy us.

Ask - What are some things that Jesus gives us?
Say - Let’s use this water to praise Jesus because he satisfies. The container with water is like Jesus—he’s got lots of living water to give us. The empty container is like us—we need him to fill us up! I’m going to name some things. If the thing I name is something that Jesus gives, take one scoop of water and pour it into the other container as you say, “Jesus satisfies!” If the thing I name isn’t something Jesus gives, shake your head and say, “Jesus doesn’t give that!” Are you ready? Listen carefully!

Say - Good job! You all know that Jesus gives us good things. Jesus satisfies us with his love and with the life that he gives us. Jesus is living water. Let’s find out more about Jesus.

* Living Water

Place the poster board on a table, and gather the children around it.

Say - Jesus told the woman at the well that he wanted to give her living water. He was talking about himself. Use a permanent marker to draw a large heart shape around the cross. Let’s pretend this heart is our life. Now let’s pretend this blue paint is the living water. Let’s dip our sponges into the paint and cover the paper with it. Something special will happen.

Preschool Leader Tip

You may want to use plastic sheets or newspapers to protect the floor and clothing during this activity. Although tempera paint is washable, it can still discolor fabric if not treated immediately.

Say - Look what happened—a cross shape is inside our heart! The cross stands for Jesus because he died on the cross for us. He fills us up on the inside. Jesus satisfies.
* “The Living Water”

**Say** When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, he told her he’d give her living water. He meant that whoever drinks of him will never thirst again spiritually. That’s true satisfaction! Let’s watch a video about how Jesus is living water.

Show “The Living Water” (3). The video illustrates the metaphor of Jesus being the living water. After the video segment, ask the following questions.

**Ask**

- **What do we mean when we say that Jesus is living water?** (Jesus washes away our sins; Jesus refreshes us; Jesus helps us go on.)

- **How does Jesus satisfy us?** (Jesus gives us love; Jesus guides us to the lives we should have.)

**Say** The woman at the well hadn’t lived a very good life—she’d made many mistakes. But she wanted to be loved and accepted. When Jesus told her about himself, she believed in him, and he gave her living water that refreshed and satisfied her. We’ve made mistakes, too. And sometimes we look at our lives and can only see all the different ways we’ve messed up. Jesus wants to be living water to us, too. He wants to satisfy us, too. Let’s learn more about Jesus.

**Juicy Fruit**

Set a bowl of seedless grapes and a raisin near you. You’ll need enough grapes for each child to have at least one.

Eat a grape and exaggerate enjoying it.

**Say** M-m-m, that’s good! So juicy and sweet! Fruit is juicy because it contains water. When the grapes come to you, take one if you want, eat it, and think about how juicy it is. Pass the grapes around and continue. Jesus was very smart to compare himself to water because all living things need water to survive. Without it, we’ll die. Jesus knows that only he can truly satisfy us. He’s the living water. Without him we’ll die spiritually. Hold up a raisin and contrast it to a grape.

Look what happens to a grape when the water is removed! Raisins taste good, but they aren’t juicy like grapes. They make you thirsty if you eat lots of them because they’re sweet, but they have no juice. Without water, a grape shrivels and dries up. That’s what our lives are like without Jesus.

Let’s make something to remember that Jesus satisfies. It’s a fold-up card that you can use to tell others about him. It will remind you that Jesus satisfies.
Give each child a piece of the precut construction paper and scissors. Demonstrate the steps to making the heart flap cards, pausing after each step so children can copy you. Allow children to help each other as needed.

When everyone has a heart flap cut out, pass out markers or pencils. Have children write, “Jesus Satisfies,” on the top flap. Then have them draw and cut out a cross shape in the center of the bottom flap. Instruct them to draw rays coming off the cross with different ways Jesus satisfies us.

Hold up a few finished hearts as you lead the children in a closing prayer.

**Pray**

Thank you, Jesus, for being satisfying. You come to us and fill us like no one and nothing else can. We love you, Lord Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Let’s Pray!

#### The Offering

While you take the offering, play “He Is Powerful.”

**Say**

While you’re waiting for the offering bowl to come to you, think about the words of this song and silently pray to Jesus. Thank him for his power to meet your needs, and praise him for being a good God.

#### The Palms Have It

Have kids form a circle. If your group is large, form more than one circle. Pass washable markers around the circle, and have kids draw a cross on their right palm.

**Say**

Let’s praise Jesus for the different ways he satisfies us, for the many things he gives us and does for us. We’ll go around the circle and each thank him for one thing. After each prayer, put your hand with the cross on it over your heart and say, “Jesus satisfies.” I’ll start.

Thank Jesus and lead kids in putting their palms over their hearts and saying, “Jesus satisfies.” Continue until everyone has had a chance to pray.

#### Spongy Praises

Pass out the sponges from the “Water That Satisfies” activity, and have everyone spread out around the room.

**Say**

Let’s praise Jesus in a fun way because he satisfies us forever.

Have children throw the sponges into the air and clap once before catching them. Have kids say, “Thank you for satisfying us once,” as they catch the sponges. Then have children throw the sponges again, clap twice before
catching them, and saying, “Thank you for satisfying us twice.” Encourage kids to continue, increasing the number of claps each time they throw the sponges in the air. Challenge kids to see who can clap the most without dropping the sponge. After several minutes,

**Say**  Jesus satisfies, not just once or twice, but time after time and forever! Let’s pray.

**Pray**  Jesus, thank you so much for satisfying us. You meet every need we have. We bring those needs before you today and ask you to satisfy us. Help us remember that you are the living water and that you have everything we need. Fill us up to overflowing, Jesus, so that we can bless others the way you bless us. In your name, amen.

Allow kids to take the sponges home to remind them that Jesus satisfies.
Fruit of the Spirit

- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control
Encouragement for Leaders

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

God knows your struggles. He also knows how you are making a difference in the individual lives of the children in your classroom.