

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Woman at the Well

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 4 WEEK 2

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Box/packet of salty crackers
- 1 cup / bottle of water per family member

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

2

- Say: Have you ever tried to go even a day without drinking any liquid containing water? Did you know that your body can go days and weeks without food, but it can only go a few days without water? Your body is made up of mostly water and it needs a steady supply of it to function properly.
- Say: We are going to have a cracker eating challenge. Put the packet of salty crackers in the middle.
- Before you start, put a cup/bottle of water near each family member.
- Say: You may have noticed these cups of water/water bottles. Well, you can't have any water. Sorry.
- Family members race to see who can eat the most crackers in two minutes. You have to eat and swallow each cracker before taking the next cracker. Whoever completely swallows the most crackers, wins.
- After the competition say: I have a question. What does your mouth feel like right now? (Allow responses). How thirsty are you? (Allow responses). What would you think if I said you couldn't have any water until after we finished this Family devotion? (Allow responses).
- Say: Well, that wouldn't be fair of me, would it? I can see that you're very thirsty, so you can go ahead and drink some water.
- Say: Today we are talking about water and we are going to see how Jesus used water to teach someone about Himself.

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- John 4:1-9
- John 4:10-18
- John 4:19-26

3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In today's reading, we saw how Jesus was having a conversation with a Samaritan woman. Jesus went out of His way to talk to this woman, which was frowned upon because:

- This woman had a bad reputation in town.
- This woman was a Samaritan – Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other. The Jews thought the Samaritans were "second-class" people and the Jew like to think that they were better than the Samaritans

Jesus' travels took Him through a Samaritan town. He went sat down by a well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" Jesus' disciples had gone into town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?"

Jesus answered the woman, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." Jesus went on to say that everyone who drinks this water from the well would be thirsty again, but that whoever drinks the water that He gives them will never thirst again. Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Jesus was using water as an illustration or picture of something else. Just like water satisfies the body, having a relationship with Jesus satisfies the soul.

We need water to survive. That is why water was the starting point of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman. Like water satisfies the body, Jesus satisfies the soul. We have a soul, which is basically the part of us that will live forever. It is the deepest part of ourselves that motivates us to do everything that we do. Like our body needs nourishment, our soul needs it too. Our soul craves something, but often we don't realise what it is that our soul needs.

This thirst will motivate us to fill our soul with things like being popular, having good looks, having a lot of cool stuff, being number 1 at sports or other activities, being amazing at video games, and so on. Now, most of these things are not bad by themselves, but when they consume us and become the most important thing to us, they are bad. When we go to them to feed our souls, we're missing out on something big.

The only thing that can satisfy our souls is a relationship with God. When we decide to follow Jesus, the relationship begins. Then, we continually go to Jesus to satisfy our souls.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- Why was it strange for Jesus (a Jew) to talk to this woman?
- What was Jesus illustrating when He was talking about water to this woman?
- What are some things we often try to "fill" our souls with?
- Who is the only One that can satisfy our souls?

**6****LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER**

How are you making time for Jesus to satisfy your soul? Here are some ideas:

- You can invite Jesus to be part of everything that you do. Give a practical example of how you can do that.
- You can spend time reading the bible and praying. Why do you think this is important?
- You can become more aware of what God is doing around you. Give a practical example of how you can do that.

**7****LET'S PRAY TOGETHER**

Pray together:

- Thank Jesus that He is the only Living Water that can satisfy our souls.
- Ask Jesus to help you to not try to fill your soul with other things.
- Ask Jesus to help you make time and to find opportunities every day for Him to satisfy your soul.