

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

By Your Side

Jesus Talks with a
Woman from Samaria
John 4:1-30, 39-42

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who matters to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Show others that they matter.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God."

Micah 6:8, NIV

HOST SUPPLIES

- Two starting buckets with water, two drip buckets, two end buckets with marked line
- Two sponges
- Tarp or drop cloth for catching spills
- Painters tape to mark off starting positions

STORY SUPPLIES

- Communicator
- Bible

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- HAPPY FEBRUARY
- **COMPASSION Challenge**
 - This month we are focused on being good neighbors and showing compassion to those around us.
 - Our challenge is for you to come back each week and share a story of **COMPASSION** with your leaders.
 - If we hear a great story of **COMPASSION**, we will share it from stage during the service.

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - Real Love & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & Graves Into Gardens

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Who You Say I Am

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I'm excited that we get to sing God's praises together.

AUDIO: Real Love

AUDIO: There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! So great to see you here today! Welcome to "the block" where everyone is your neighbor and is ready to have some fun! Let's jump right into the fun with a block party game. Neighborhood block parties are a huge hit in the summer. But even though it's not summer, we can still play some summer games, right? Let's try a little game I like to call: "The Not-So-Summer Sponge Relay!"



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LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

SLIDE: "THE NOT-SO-SUMMER SPONGE RELAY"

"I need three teams of two. Who wants to play?"

Choose three teams of two volunteers. Have teams from three separate Small Groups. Introduce volunteers to the rest of the group.

"Here's how it works. At the start here, you can see both lines have a bucket of water and a sponge. We also gave you an empty bucket for catching any water drips. The first person in line will fill up the sponge with water and hold it over the drip bucket. They'll run the sponge and the bucket

over to the person at the other line. Runner 1 will hand both the sponge and the drip bucket over to Runner 2 who is standing on the X. Runner 2 will then run over to the empty bucket with a line marked on it. They'll squeeze the sponge out, NOT dump the drip bucket, and then run back to Runner 1, who will dump the drip bucket in your original water and start all over with the sponge.

"You'll continue running the relay until the water in the end bucket PASSES the marked line. Get it? Got it? Let's do this, people! On your mark, get set . . . GO!

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

Host comments on what's happening and encourages the rest of the kids to cheer for the different teams.

"(After the relay) That was great! We really SQUEEZED all of the fun out of that game!



25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, friends! Good to see you all. Let's start with a couple of questions. First, who is someone who has believed in you? And second, how did that person show you that you mattered? Take a moment, turn to your neighbor, and share a story about someone who believed in you. I can't wait to hear some of your answers!

Kids turn and talk with groups. If time or setting allows, have a few kids or leaders share with the whole group. Share a personal story to wrap up the conversation, something along the lines of the following paragraph.

"Those were some great stories. You know, back when I was a little older than you, I had a teacher who really believed in me. He noticed that I could speak well. Actually, he noticed that I talked a lot in class and kept getting in trouble. He said instead of getting in trouble by talking, that I should try competing in some speech competitions. He believed that I could use my voice for something great, not just to talk during class and get in trouble. I ended up doing pretty well in these competitions. Because he believed in me, I found out I had a talent. I even ended up going to college on a scholarship to be part of speech team. And now I get to speak in front of kids like you. How cool is that?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "I love sharing and hearing stories about people who've helped us. I mean, thinking about those people who have believed in us and make us feel like we matter? Well, that's pretty special. It makes me think about how I do that for others. I'm quick to take someone's encouragement, but how do I show encouragement to others?"

"And even if I do show others encouragement and show them they have value, how do I figure out who to help? And it makes me wonder, do you think there are times when we treat other people like they are MORE deserving of compassion or like they matter MORE than other people?"

"Before you answer that question for yourself, let's a look at a moment we find recorded for us in the Bible. After all, the Bible is a great place to start when we have a big question that impact our lives.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we head to the New Testament to the Book of John. Now, let's get ourselves setup for the story by getting our bearings a little bit here. This is a map of Israel, where our story takes place.

SLIDE: STORY 1

"Now, many of us are familiar with the town of Bethlehem in Judea. Why is that?"

Pause for responses.

"Right! That is where Jesus was born! And several of us might also be familiar with Jerusalem in Judea. Anyone know why that city is important?"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Pause for responses.

“Great job! Yes, that’s where the Jews would go and worship God. They’d go to Jerusalem because that’s where the temple was. In fact, Jerusalem was the capital of the region. Back to the map, if we travel all the way up to Galilee, we find the Sea of Galilee and a town called Nazareth. Who knows why Nazareth is important?”

Pause for responses.

“Awesome! That’s right! Jesus grew up there! Excellent. Many of the Jesus stories we read about in the Gospels happen in the region of Galilee (*pointing*) and the region of Judea (*pointing*). But there’s another major area on this map. It’s this section in the middle—Samaria. Ever heard of it?”

“Well, in Jesus’ time, this was not a friendly place for Jewish people like Jesus or the disciples. In fact, the Jews and the Samaritans pretty much disliked one another . . . a lot. The history of this tension goes quite a long way back, but the feelings were real. Let’s just say, when traveling between Judea and Galilee, many would do what they could to avoid traveling through Samaria. And if you didn’t have time to go all the way around this region, you went through it quickly and quietly.

“With that in mind, let’s jump into our story!”

“Things were starting to get a little tense with the religious leaders in Judea, so Jesus decided to head back to Galilee from Judea. Now that we have seen a map, we know what that means. Check it out.

Open the Bible to John 4:3-4 (NIRV) and read.

“So Jesus left Judea and went back again to Galilee. Jesus had to go through Samaria.

SLIDE: STORY 2

“So if Jesus HAD to go through Samaria, we would expect that as a Jewish man, He would go quickly and quietly. Don’t talk to anyone. Don’t make a scene. Just get in and get out. But that’s not exactly what happened. Check this out.

Open the Bible to John 4:5-6 (NIRV) and read.

“He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of land Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey. So he sat down by the well. It was about noon.

SLIDE: STORY 3

“Woah! Jesus didn’t just rush through town. Instead, He sat down by the well and took a travel break! Now, to be fair, it had been a long journey, and Jesus was tired. So in the middle of the hot day, He sat down by a refreshing well.

Open the Bible to John 4:7-8 (NIRV) and read.

“A woman from Samaria came to get some water. Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.



SLIDE: STORY 4

“Now, after setting up this story for a few minutes, this should already not sit well with us, no pun intended. Why?”

Pause for responses.

“Right—Jesus was Jewish and she was Samaritan. They should NOT get along, let alone speak to one another. And check this out, she knew it.

Open the Bible to John 4:9 (NirV) and read.

“The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” She said this because Jews don’t have anything to do with Samaritans.

“She knew the way she felt about Jews. She also knew the way Jews should feel about Samaritans. But there was definitely more happening below the surface here.

Open the Bible to John 4:10 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus answered her, “You do not know what God’s gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water.”

“Okay, now this is a little confusing, but Jesus was saying there was more than just water at stake here. He may be sitting at a physical well where you drew physical water, but Jesus began talking about ‘living water.’

SLIDE: STORY 5

Open the Bible to John 4:11 (NirV) and read.

““Sir,” the woman said, “you don’t have anything to get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water?”

“So we’re not the only ones who are confused. The woman was confused, too. You see, the term ‘living water’ in that time meant water that came to you because of its own power. Like a river flowing down from the mountains would be living water. A well that went down to an underground stream would be living water. But Jesus, He wasn’t really worried about the water that was in the well. He had a different ‘living’ water in mind. Listen to this.

SLIDE: STORY 6

Open the Bible to John 4:13-14 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life.”



25 MINUTES

“And it became clear that Jesus was talking about quenching a thirst that physical water couldn’t satisfy. In fact, Jesus was talking about Himself and the life that He had come to bring. But could it be that He had come to bring that kind of life to people even like THIS woman? A Samaritan?”

“The woman asked Jesus for this ‘special’ water He was talking about, and as they talked, it became clear that Jesus knew that there was more to this woman’s story. You see, nobody came to the well at noon to draw water. It was too hot! Most people came in the morning before the sun was full blaze. You only came to the well at noon if you were rejected or were trying to avoid seeing other people. You see, not only was this woman talking to Jesus a Samaritan, but she had a very difficult past. She did not have a great reputation in her town. And Jesus knew it. But Jesus had compassion on her. He still offered her living water.

“After a conversation about where and how the Samaritans have worshipped up to this point, which really was just a way for the woman to avoid what was REALLY going on, Jesus brought the conversation back to the reality of what God is looking for.

Open the Bible to John 4:23-24 (NirV) and read.

“But a new time is coming. In fact, it is already here. True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father is looking for. God is spirit. His worshipers must worship him in the Spirit and in truth.

“This was a lot to sort out and understand! Who can help make this clear? The woman certainly had an idea.

SLIDE: STORY 7

Open the Bible to John 4:25 (NirV) and read.

“The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming.” Messiah means Christ. “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

“And in a powerful and unforgettable moment, Jesus responded.”

SLIDE: STORY 8

Open the Bible to John 4:26 (NirV) and read.

“Then Jesus said, “The one you’re talking about is the one speaking to you. I am he.”

“Woah! Jesus was declaring that He is the very One—the Messiah! And of all the places He could have been in that moment, He was next to a well, in the middle of Samaria, talking with a woman with a bad reputation that most would say was not worth His time. On top of all that, Jesus offered her true life, the life that only He could give.

SLIDE: STORY 9

“Just then the disciples returned from town where they were buying food. Needless to say, they were shocked! But the woman’s life had truly been changed. Check this out!



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

SLIDE: STORY 10

Open the Bible to John 4:28-30 (NIRV) and read.

“The woman left her water jar and went back to the town. She said to the people, “Come. See a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Messiah?” The people came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus.

SLIDE: STORY 11

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Did you catch that? The people came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus! Why? Because this woman went and told them her story. All of this started when Jesus was willing to look past what others would have seen in this woman and see that she mattered because she was a child of God. Jesus recognized her value even when nobody else did. This made an incredible impact. Not only did she personally change, but she also went and told her town and they came to meet Jesus. Just listen to this verse that comes later in the story.

Open the Bible to John 4:39 (NIRV) and read.

“Many of the Samaritans from the town of Sychar believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had said about him. She said, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.”

“This is incredible. This woman’s testimony about what had happened led so many others to come and meet Jesus and learn for themselves about the living water that leads to true life! Did her life matter? Absolutely!

“You know, we all have people in our lives right now who, if they were honest, probably would say that they feel like they don’t matter a whole lot. Maybe they compare themselves to those who are more popular or athletic or talented. Maybe they feel like they just come up short. Maybe that person is even you. But Jesus’ interaction with the woman at the well helps us see that Jesus goes out of His way to show others that they matter, and we should, too.

“This could be kids you know at school, in your neighborhood, at church, or even in the place where you live. A person can look like they have all of the friends in the world, yet that same person can feel lonely and like they don’t matter to anyone. When we show those people how much they matter, we never know the impact that it might have. For the Samaritan woman, it changed an entire town! Who knows, maybe for you it could change an entire family, or neighborhood, or school!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you head to Small Group, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION SLIDE

“Who matters to you? Think about all the different people you meet throughout your week: people you know really well and others you may only somewhat know. Consider the ways that you might be tempted to pick who matters based on things that might not actually matter. Think about things in your life that might cause you to overlook others in your life. Think about the ways you can help others see how they matter to you and truly matter to God. If



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LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

you're not quite sure how to answer those questions, don't worry. You'll have a chance to chat more about this and more with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus to rescue us and show us just how much we matter, too!

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP