

Planning



Sunday, March 12 – Saturday, March 18 • 2023

With Thirst for New Life

As we listen to quarrels with God by thirsty travellers in the wilderness and the big questions asked at the well, we find the courage to use our voice to say what matters most and claim resurrection for ourselves.

This week...

Ecumenical prayer calendar

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

As listed in *Pilgrim Prayer: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, edited by Ester Pudjo Widiastih and Karen L. Bloomquist. (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2018). <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> offers valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

Special day ([commentary](#) on p. 50)

March 17 – St. Patrick

Personal reflection

The metaphors of Living Water (John 4:5–42) and the gushing rock at Horeb (Exodus 17:1–7) invite and challenge us to speak up for the vulnerable and suffering.

- **What needs have been given voice in your community?**
- **Metaphorically speaking, how can you help provide refreshment for those thirsting in your community, individually and as a church?**

The planning page is provided in text format for copying, adapting, and adding to your bulletin, online worship resources, website, social media (see Weekly Resources – TEXT FILES folder).

March 12, 2023

Lent 3

**Revised Common Lectionary
(Year A)**

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

the focus in age-level materials

Liturgical colour purple

Notes

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- _____
- _____
- _____
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Online Resources

Lection Connection

Essays and discussion prompts linking current events with this week's scriptures. Use for sermon preparation, Bible studies, and small groups or share on social media at <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/10/>.

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

An easy-to-share, weekly online resource supports the spiritual lives and faith formation of individuals and families at home. It is provided in the [Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home](#) folder.





Exodus 17:1–7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

the focus in age-level materials

God of all life, sometimes we think our voices don't matter. We have important things to say and wonder if anyone will listen. We offer a different perspective from the world and it is rejected. Give us big voices, Holy One. Give us voices that are loud enough to claim that you are the one who provided water in the desert, living water at a well, and that in you we find resurrection and claim it for ourselves. Amen.

With Thirst for New Life

This week's readings centre on God's faithfulness as the source of life, and on our human need to trust that God provides. As we listen to quarrels with God by thirsty travellers in the wilderness and to the big questions asked at the well, we find the courage to use our voice to say what matters most and to claim resurrection for ourselves. The theme of life-giving water runs through three of these readings, while the reading from Romans speaks of God's grace as the source of life.

Exodus 17:1–7 The Israelites are in the desert and angry because they cannot see how Moses can provide them with the essential water they need. They quarrel with Moses and ask the big question, "Why did you bring us here anyway?" Moses turns to God, asks God for help, and God gives directions for Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. God's immediate response acts out the relationship of trust and faithfulness that the Israelites lacked.

Psalms 95 encourages us to use our voices to praise God. This could be a psalm of resurrection as we pivot from the grumbling of Exodus to the joy of worship. Yet even in this joy, there are big questions. Verse 10 may cause us to wonder if God loathes this generation and to ask what the consequences may be if so.

In **Romans 5:1–11**, Paul explains what it means to be justified by faith: we are restored to a right relationship with God through Christ. This brings us peace. Even our suffering can teach us endurance, build character, and lead to hope. Christ's life leads us into life with God.

John 4:5–42 This long reading is dominated by the conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman he meets at the well. The comparison with last week's gospel story is striking. Both readings depict a character struggling to understand Jesus' talk about spiritual things. But this woman is everything Nicodemus was not – a woman with no voice or standing, a despised Samaritan, morally suspect, and isolated from her community. Why else would she be alone at

a well at the hottest time of the day? This is a story about how her voice changed a community. Yet her community has shunned her. She is alone rather than with the safety of others, seeking water in the most dangerous part of the day. She is in the wilderness even though she is familiar with the terrain.

Jesus broke Jewish custom to engage her in conversation. The woman was interested, initially confused and defensive, but, unlike Nicodemus, she felt she had nothing to lose by engaging with Jesus. Perhaps it was this fact that allowed her finally to "see" past her physical needs to the spiritual truths that Jesus was teaching her. While the woman needs physical water for her body, it is the spiritual water, the living water of Jesus, that gives her a voice others will hear.

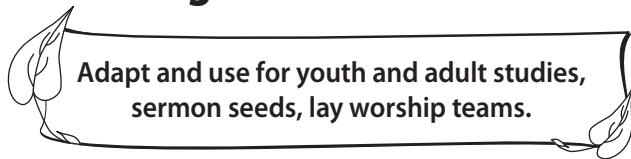
In verse 49, the woman asks a bold question of her community, "He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" She testifies to her community that "he told me everything I have ever done" and uses her voice to tell the truth about her encounter. There is a realization that her voice can effect change. The candour with which this woman had an open and honest conversation with Jesus leads to change. We may imagine her ostracized and invisible as she approaches the well alone. Her assertions in verse 29 led her community to believe her about Jesus, enough that they dropped what they were doing to go find him. Her voice was the impetus for their invitation for Jesus to stay in town and reach more people. The woman asked big and hard questions and spoke about what mattered most, and it made a difference in her community.

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We can use our voices to quarrel with God, to ask big questions, and to speak the truth. We can use our voices to change our communities and praise God. As we thirst for new life, we find refreshment in the water offered by God in the desert places.



Reflecting on the Word



Connecting with life

- **Think of the many ways you used water in the last day or so. How readily do you take water granted?**
- **Have you ever tried to speak and not been listened to? What did that feel like?**
- **How have you used your voice for positive change? How do you encourage others to do the same?**

Scripture

Exodus 17:1–7 The Bedouin know how to find water in the desert. They know that God’s nourishment and resourcefulness is always around us; you just need to know where to look.

- **Where have you found God’s presence and supply during a barren time?**
- **How do you experience God providing refreshment in the midst of daily living?**
- **Imagine you are the people of Israel in the Exodus story. What are you seeking? What do you receive?**

John 4:5–42 There was animosity between Jews and Samaritans in Jesus’ day. Yet here Jesus is speaking with a Samaritan. Moreover, it is a Samaritan woman. Jewish rabbis would not speak with women in public.

- **Imagine you are this woman engaged in conversation with Jesus. What are you seeking? What do you receive?**

Materials If you have access to a small desktop fountain, turn it on and let its sounds soothe you and run in the background of your thinking and reflecting.

By asking the woman to draw water from the well for him, Jesus takes one considered to be an outsider and places her in the role of a provider – just as God provided water for the wilderness wanderers in Exodus 17:1–17.

- **Who is pushed to the margins by your community’s laws, written or unwritten?**
- **How do you seek to engage in conversation?**

The woman Jesus encounters at the well asks big and hard questions and speaks about what matters most. Her voice brought change for her and her community.

- **How is Christ proclaimed in your community?**
- **Who is asking the big and hard questions and speaking about what matters most in your community?**
- **How do you listen to them? Are you defensive, fearful, or open to change? Do you strive to have an open heart and mind?**

Connecting scripture and life

In light of the metaphor of Living Water (John 4:5–42) and the gushing rock at Horeb (Exodus 17:1–7):

- **How do the expressed needs of your community impact you?**
- **What answer might you, individually and as a church, want to give to each need that has been given voice?**
- **Metaphorically speaking, how can you, individually and as a church, help provide refreshment for those thirsting in your community?**

Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

The Israelites quarrelled with Moses, who served on behalf of God. The woman at the well was uncomfortable when she heard Jesus recite her history. In the psalm, we see an ending where we do not like what God has to say. Yet, in each of this week’s lections, we see that God is faithful. Hope does not disappoint us. Sometimes the answers God gives us are right before us. We may find ourselves complaining and whining, only to discover that God has already answered our prayers.

Similarly, we may think we are excluded, shut out, not a part of the conversation or the party of important people, and yet something happens to indicate that we are included. God declares we belong, and no one can take that away.

The scriptures this week remind us that, even when we are seeking, thirsting, and believing ourselves in need, God may already be providing what we want. In the midst of the everyday, we can discover that God provides the refreshment we so desperately desire.



With Thirst for New Life

Prepare

NOTE: The following suggestions are mere starting points. You are invited to adapt, delete, add according to your local needs and context. If a community is gathered in person, they may speak the **bolded** lines. If worshippers are not physically present, consider having a different individual say the bolded responses. Instructions are *italicized*.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship: two readers for the interwoven reading and a female voice for the Living Water Meditation.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing John 4:5–42. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller to present “The Visitor at the Well” on p. 52. Alternatively, for younger children, arrange for a storyteller to present “Come and See!” in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials. For the paired reading and reflection, arrange for two voices.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space: a table with droppers, spoons, and cups around a series of water bowls (optional) and a large water jug as a prop for the Living Water Meditation (optional).
- ❑ You might choose to print *Thread of Hope 3* on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Images for Printing folders). See “Connecting with the Art” on p. 8 for background to the art and artist.
- ❑ Bring song such as “Come to the Water” (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 4, #8 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 4). Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/.
- ❑ Set stations as described on pp. 53–54.



Music Suggestions

Hold Us in Your Grace

Keri Wehlander; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

Jesus, Face of God

James Maher; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

I've Got a Voice

MacGregor; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 7

To You, O God, I Lift My Soul

Marty Haugen; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 7

Come to the Water

Bread for the Journey; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 4

A Voice Is Heard

Trisha Watts and Monica O'Brien; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 2

Deep Waters

Trisha Watts; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 2

I Love to Tell the Story

Kate Hankey

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

James Lewis Milligan

Woman in the Night

Brian Wren



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at www.seasonsonline.ca. Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

Gather

Call to worship

Come into the wildness of possibility where strangers meet, and everything changes in one conversation.

Come away from all that you thought you knew and find your voice.

**We have so much to say,
so much has gone unsaid.**

Come into the wildness and find others that are eager and ready to speak with you and hear your truth.

We come to tell the truth.

Opening prayer

In the driest desert, O God, you provided a rock that held a fountain for those who thirst.

Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love.

In a place of quarrelling, you provide an answer that holds life for those who hope.

Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love.

In a place of wonder, you provided living water, for those who met there.

Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. Amen.

Prayer of confession

O God, our prayers often falter when we think we need to get it all right with every word in its proper place, every sentiment correctly stated.

Yet we know life is not like that.

Our feelings wander,

our thoughts scatter,

our motivations are mixed.



Worship Outline • March 12, 2023

Save us from a politeness of faith that often shrinks back from the messy soul of what it means to be human. From these messy places, we find life-giving desires longing to be felt and given voice.

Save us, too, from a sterility of faith that, for the sake of precision, remains closed to wonderment, the facing of hard questions, and possibilities of new adventures.

In the deep and hospitable silence, enlarge our trust and free our hearts to live the generous ways of your love
(*silence*).

Words of affirmation

God's voice carries over the waters of creation, reaching out to you and assuring you that you are loved into life's fullness over and over again. You will drink of the living waters and never be thirsty again. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Engage

Opening the word

Exodus 17:1–7 and **Romans 5:1–11**

Paired reading and reflection

These passages take on new meaning when they are interwoven in the reading. Invite two readers to read the passages; interspersing verses are suggested here:

Exodus 17:1–2a (through to the people's request for water)
Romans 5:1–2
Exodus 17:2b–3
Romans 5:3–4
Exodus 17:4
Romans 5:5–7
Exodus 17:5–6
Romans 5:8–10
Exodus 17:7
Romans 5:11

Find new meaning from these paired readings by sharing in contemplation together around these shared open and honest questions. You could invite people to share in conversation, but it might work best to invite quiet personal reflection. For those who might need to keep their hands busy, you might

encourage some waterplay with droppers, spoons, and cups around a series of water bowls. If desired, these bowls could become the well for the following meditation.

- **What makes you quarrel with God?**
- **Where do you most often find peace?**
- **What causes you suffering and pain?**
- **Where do you find reconciliation and healing?**
- **How do you give voice to these things?**

John 4:5–42 *the focus scripture for age-level materials in*
ENCORE

Choose from the following.

Bible story Arrange for a storyteller to present "[The Visitor at the Well](#)" on p. 52. Alternatively, for younger children, tell the story "[Come and See!](#)" (in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week's materials).

Living Water Meditation Use the meditation "[A Woman with Voice](#)" on page 51 either in place of reading the scripture or directly after it as a reflection on the text.

If gathering in person, invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations. Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word. For those participating at home, you might encourage them to use materials that have been sent.

Respond

Sing or listen to a song such as "Come to the Water" as people gather again (*Seasons Songbook, vol. 4, #8 on Seasons Music CD, vol. 4*). Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/.

Affirmation of faith

There are parched places and dry throats.
We believe that there is also water that springs from hard places and living water that quenches every thirst.



There are wild places and so much that is unknown.
We believe that there is also reason to burst into song and make a joyful noise because we have been to the depths but also know the heights that God can reach.

There are hardened hearts and impossible situations.
We believe that there is healing and reconciliation for everyone.
God promises peace and invites us to share this good news.

Prayers of the people

Gracious God, we know that we have something to say and that there is good news to share.
We know that you have promised peace everlasting, and we can lift our voices to proclaim such possibility.

But, we are also full of doubt that our voices are strong enough or loud enough.
We quarrel with God, like Moses, that no one will listen.
There must be someone else that will speak.

There isn't always an Aaron to be your voice.
Sometimes, we know we must use our voices.

It has to be us that speak up.
We must find the courage, like the woman at the well, to break through our insecurities and the expected boundaries to give voice to what matters most.

Gracious God, we will never feel quite ready.
We will always stumble over the words and question how we use words to bring about the change you imagine.
As we find the courage to speak,
we turn to you, Gracious God,
to listen for what most needs to be said.
We are listening
(*silence*).

God of shared desire, we entrust these prayers and our voices to you in the hope of love, compassion, peace, justice, and faith. **Amen.**

Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

As One closer than our breathing,
and as One knowing of our needs before we ask,
bless the gifts we bring today, O God.
Through us, use them in the love and service of others.

Bless

God knows your story and is listening for your voice.
Go out into the world in peace, to share the living water that God gives to us so freely,

and in so doing, to restore others to hope and life.
Amen.

Special Day Commentary

March 17 – St. Patrick

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in 390 CE in England. At the age of 16, he was enslaved and taken to Ireland. Six years later, he escaped and returned to England. He studied theology in France and was ordained a priest. Patrick later returned to Ireland as a bishop, preaching the gospel throughout the island.

Legends claim that Patrick taught the people about the Trinity by using a three-leafed shamrock and that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. Patrick died on March 17, 460 CE, and this day is observed in Irish communities in many parts of the world with parades and merrymaking. In Ireland, however, the day is more solemn, and many people attend worship services.



A Woman with Voice

A woman comes forward, perhaps out of darkness/shadow. She might carry a large water jug or bucket as a prop, although this is not necessary.

I always go to get my water in the middle of the day – it's easier that way. The other women of the village go in the early morning before the sun is up and it becomes so unbearably hot. I got tired of them shunning me. They were always whispering behind my back or doing whatever they could not to talk to me (*slight pause*).

I've been ignored and dismissed for so long that it is a wilderness I know well. People don't want anything to do with me because I've had five husbands. It's not the men that they questioned. They blamed me. People do that. They find an excuse to blame someone else for something they don't understand.

I live with a man now. He is gentle and kind, a good companion. We're not married, and we don't have any interest in being married. Maybe that will change. I don't know. I don't claim to have all of the answers – but that's why I was at the well in the heat of the day. I didn't want to deal with other people's assumptions and ideas.

I wasn't alone, though. There was this man. I tried to ignore him, but he began to talk to me. I don't know if he knew what he was getting into when he asked me for a cup of water. He knew I was a Samaritan. He knew that I shouldn't be the one to give him a drink, and maybe I just should have given him a drink from my bucket, but instead, I asked him, "Why are you asking me for a drink?"

He told me that if I knew the gift of God and who he was, then I wouldn't hesitate to ask him for a drink of living water. I had no idea what this meant, but it's not like he had a bucket anyway. There was no way for him to offer a drink of any kind. I felt safe enough to ask him another question. So I asked him, "Sir, where might you get that living water?"

Living water, he told me, comes from God. The water grows inside you and bubbles up and spills over in acts of love and justice. It's the water that leads you to eternal life.

I had no idea how thirsty I had been until he said that. Then, I knew. I knew that I wanted some of that water. I raised my voice to ask him, "Give me a drink of that, please!"

"Go get your husband," he said to me, and my head fell.

He must have known how sad it made me to be pushed into that wilderness of isolation again. I had been wrong about him until he said he knew. He knew my whole story. I don't know how he could have known this, but he did.

"You must be a prophet!" I exclaimed. And I added, "we worship here in this place, but you and your people, they say we must worship God in Jerusalem."

"Someday, people will realize that it doesn't matter where we worship God," the man said. "Someday, we will realize that God is a spirit, that God is everywhere. So we can worship God anywhere and always. It doesn't matter where we are." He paused for a second and looked straight at me. "It doesn't matter *who* we are," he finished.

"I know the Messiah will come someday," I said. "And things will become clear."

"I am he," the man said.

Some other men came by the well and told this man that they shouldn't be talking to me. The wilderness crept in again, but I didn't care. I dropped my bucket and ran.

Something had changed. I didn't retreat to the silence of the wilderness I had known. I had a voice. I had something to say, so I stopped people and shouted: "You've got to come and see this man. He's amazing! He offered me living water, and he says he's the Messiah, and he says incredible things about what it is to worship God and to be God's people!"

It changed us. It changed all of us that day. (*Woman slowly turns and exits.*)



The Visitor at the Well

Based on John 4:5–42

Imagine you're in the desert. It's lunchtime, you're thirsty, and the sun is high in the sky. You leave your home to draw water from the well. It's hot, but it's even hotter when you have nothing to drink.

When you arrive at the well, you find a man sitting there. He's alone, looks tired, and asks you to give him something to drink. The man is not Samaritan like you, and so you ask him, "You're a Jewish man. Why would you ask a Samaritan woman for something to drink?"

The man answers, "If you knew who I was, you would have asked me for living water."

You say, "Look, you don't have a bucket, and this well is really deep. Where would you get that living water anyway? This well goes back to our ancestor Jacob. Do you think you are better than him?"

The man smiles. "Everybody who drinks water from this well will be thirsty again. But I can give people a spring of water inside of them that will never run dry."

You consider this. You answer softly, "I would like some of that water. I would never like to be thirsty. But most of all, I would like to stop coming here to this well every day to draw water."

The man says, "Well then, go call your husband."

"I don't have one."

"You don't now. But you've been married five times before."

You gasp. "You are a prophet!" You decide to ask him more questions to gain some of his wisdom for yourself. "My people say this mountain is the place to worship. Your people say that Jerusalem is the place to worship. So, who is right?"

The man tilts his head. "We worship what we know. You worship what you don't know yet. Soon we will all worship God in spirit and in truth."

You say, "I know that the Messiah, God's chosen one, is on the way. And when he comes, he will help us understand."

His eyes hold yours. You couldn't look away if you tried. "I am that chosen One," he tells you.

You have to tell someone. You leave your jar at the well, and you run into the city and tell everyone you find, "Come and see someone who told me everything I have done. I think he might be the Messiah."

The people ask this mysterious stranger to stay two more days. And when it's time for him to be on his way, the people thank you. "Because of you, we will never be thirsty again. Thank you for coming to us. Thank you for deciding that it was time for you to leave the well."

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



Bible story

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Paper or drawing pads
- Recording of today's story, "[The Visitor at the Well](#)"
- Alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story

The practice of storytelling

Directions

1. Listen to the story "The Visitor at the Well."
2. Use the art supplies to write or draw your response to the story.



Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space, or in other places around the church, in your home, or outdoors. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the directions for all to see onscreen or in person. Adapt stations for use when physically distancing and above all, follow the safe practices of your congregation and local health officials.

For your convenience, directions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

Health and Safety Practices

Basic supplies pens, pencils, markers, crayons, white glue/glue sticks, scissors, hand sanitizer, wipes placed in a basket or bin, two containers marked “clean” and “used”

Setting the space Utilize large spaces where people can maintain a safe physical distance. Spread out chairs around a large table or use tape to mark off the space around stand alone chairs.

Keep it clean Wipe down and disinfect places used for stations. Provide enough arts and crafts supplies to reduce sharing and mark containers “clean” and “used.” Remind people to use hand sanitizer as they begin and as they end stations.

Seeing ourselves

Materials

- Twigs, leaves, acorns, seeds, and any other natural elements
- Twine
- Glue
- Paper
- Hand sanitizer or wipes



The practice of reflection _____

Directions

1. Take a moment to look at the objects from nature.
2. Reflect on the shape and size of the object.
3. Assemble the objects using twine and glue to create a self-portrait. You might opt to create a sculpture or a two-dimensional image on paper.
4. As you create, you might wonder:
 - **What makes you feel known?**
 - **How does Jesus see you?**
 - **How do you see yourself?**

Making wilderness paint

Materials

- Grass, leaves, petals
- Small trays or wooden planks
- Rocks
- Sticks
- Cups of water
- Paper
- Paintbrushes
- Hand sanitizer or wipes

Pablo Picasso once said, “Style is beside the point. Nobody would pay attention if one always said the same thing, in the same words and tone of voice.” Find yourself in the wildness of creativity by experimenting with your voice in paint.



The practice of creativity _____

Directions

1. Using a tray or wooden plank, crush the leaves and petals together with rocks and sticks.
2. Pour small amounts of water into your crushed leaves and petals to make a paste.
3. Dip a paintbrush into your newly made paint and create.



Creating a water xylophone

Materials

- Pitchers of water
- Sticks
- Jars
- Hand sanitizer or wipes

Water has a new understanding by this well. It is living water that Jesus offers this woman. Wonder about what might make water come alive as you make water come alive with music.



Suitable for
all ages

The practice of listening

Directions

1. Select four jars.
2. Pour varying levels of water into each jar. More water will create a lower sound, whereas less water will make a higher pitch.
3. Use sticks to make music and wonder what makes ordinary water into living water.

Create a land acknowledgment

Materials

- Local map
- Chalkboard
- Chalk
- Denominational resources about creating a land acknowledgment
- Books and pamphlets about local history from the library or historical society

The woman at the well hesitates to offer Jesus a drink because Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans. Tensions between communities continue to exist on the same land, and we can forget that generations of people cared for this land before it became our home.



Suitable for
all ages

The practice of awareness

Directions

1. Look at the map of your local area and notice the names of the rivers, towns, and landmarks. Wonder who gave these places these names and what they saw in these places.
 - **What do you know about the original stewards of this land?**
 - **What would you like to know about these first people?**

Note Small children will not have the answer to these questions, but adults can share their wonderings aloud to invite curiosity.
2. Add one thing know about these first people to the chalkboard.
3. Give thanks for these original stewards and practice saying, "We live on the ancestral home of..."

The article "[Connecting with the Art](#)" on page 8 provides background to this season's posters and art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might add an Art station and select one of the art engagement ideas.



Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

Come and See!

A story based on John 4:5-42

I have come to a well to get some water for my family. It's hard work. First, I have to put the bucket down deep into the well. Then I have to lift it out and pour the water into my jar.

One afternoon, when I was going to the well, it was very hot.

I noticed that someone was sitting by the well. I didn't know who he was, but I could tell he wasn't from my village. The man looked at me, smiled, and said, "Could you please give me a drink of water? I'm thirsty, and I don't have a cup."

I was surprised that he talked to me, but I was happy to share my cup with him. I gave him a drink of water, and then we sat down and talked together.

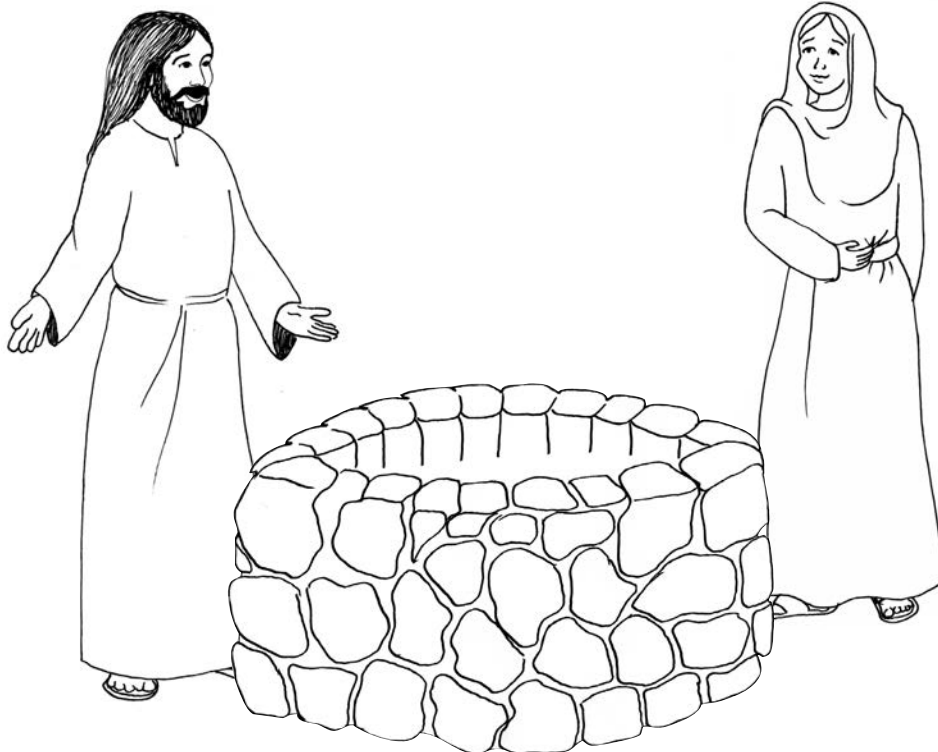
"Who are you?" I asked.

The man told me his name was Jesus. He began to talk about God and God's love. "God loves and cares for everyone," Jesus said. "You are very important to God."

I could tell that Jesus was one of God's special teachers. He was so kind! Jesus told me many things about myself, things that only I know. I thought to myself, "Jesus knows who I am!"

I began to feel God's love all around me.

Way up high, way down low, and deep, deep inside me, I was so happy that I wanted to share this good news. I left my jar by the well and ran back to the town. I told everyone, "Come and see!"



The woman left the well full of the good news of God's love. Use markers to decorate the figures of Jesus and the woman. Glue scraps of paper to the well to represent rocks. Crumble blue tissue paper inside the well to represent water.



God's spirit is very much like a drink of water. Help the people find their way to the water.

