

Living Water?

John 4:1-42; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 183-195

One morning Maria had a surprise at school. A new girl was sitting in the desk right next to hers. Maria's teacher introduced the girls: "Maria, this is Pei Ling. She and her parents come from China."

"Nice to meet you. Welcome to our class," said Maria.

"Nice to meet you," Pei Ling answered with a strong accent.

That night Maria asked Jesus to help her to be Pei Ling's friend. It was good that Maria went to Jesus for help. Jesus knows how to be friends with everyone!

One day Jesus and His disciples were walking through Samaria on their way to Galilee. The Jews and the Samaritans didn't like each other. They never even spoke to one another. Samaritans were different. They had a different religion, so neither Jews nor Samaritans felt a need to be friends with each other.

Outside the town of Sychar, Jesus sat down beside a well. He was tired, hungry, and very thirsty. And He was alone—His disciples had gone to town to buy some food.

Usually this well, called Jacob's well, was very busy. But as Jesus sat there, only one woman came to draw water. In the heat of the day, most Samaritans stayed inside.

"May I have a drink?" Jesus asked.

The woman looked around. *Was this Jew*



really speaking to her? she thought. *Why would a Jew speak to a Samaritan? They never spoke to each other!*

"Why do you, a Jew, ask me for a drink?" she replied.

"If you asked Me for water," Jesus answered, "I wouldn't refuse you. I would give you living water, and you would never be thirsty again."

The woman listened. Never be thirsty again? She forgot that she was not supposed to talk to a Jew. All she could think about was

The Message

Jesus is everyone's friend.

Memory Verse

"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:14).

the water Jesus spoke about. She wanted this special water so she would never be thirsty again.

Then Jesus explained. The living water He spoke of was really eternal life, which we receive when we believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him.

The woman believed. She wanted others to believe, too, so they could receive the living water Jesus promised. Quickly she ran into town. "Come," she invited others. "Hear a man who has a wonderful message."

Jesus stayed in Sychar for two days, pouring the water of life for all the people there. It did not matter to Jesus that the people were different from Him. It didn't matter that they were a different religion. It didn't matter that they were hated by the Jews. Jesus loves all the people in our world. Everyone is Jesus' friend, no matter where they live or what they look

like. He wants us to make new friends for Him, no matter how different they are from us.



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family for a nature walk. What colors can you see? How many other different things can you see? Praise God in prayer for giving us so many different colors, plants, animals, rocks, etc.

READ Read and discuss John 4:14 with your family.

SING Sing together verse 1 of “As Water to the Thirsty” (*The SDA Hymnal*, no. 460).

M O N D A Y

READ Together with your family, read John 4:25, 26. Jesus took time to tell a woman who was not a Jew who He was. Have you told someone different from you about Jesus? Ask Jesus to help you do so.

DO Cut up old magazines and newspapers. Cut out pictures of people who are different from you and stick them onto a sheet of paper. At the top write “Jesus is everyone’s friend.”

DO Say your memory verse without looking.

DO Sing together “Jesus Loves Children” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 37) before prayer. Thank Jesus for His love.

Usually when women got water, they visited with their friends at the well before going home.



S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read John 4:1-15. Tell what you read in your own words; then draw a picture.

DO Read John 4:13, 14 again. Remember this verse every time you take a drink of water this week. Thank God for water to drink.

DO Write your memory verse using a different color for each word. Put it where you will see it all week.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read John 4:27-30 with your family. What did the woman do to become a missionary? Ask a family member the meaning of *foreign*. How can you be a “foreign” missionary this week?

READ Try to find out about the first Adventist missionary. Pray for missionaries serving God today.

DO Say your memory verse; then sing “We Are His Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129).

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During worship, read and discuss John 4:39-42. What happened when Jesus served the “living water” to the Samaritans in Sychar?

DO Find an empty, clean soda bottle and a balloon. Stretch the balloon so it will inflate easier. Put a teaspoon (5 g) of baking soda and about one ounce (30 ml) of water into the soda bottle. Add juice from one lemon or two ounces (50 ml) of vinegar. Quickly attach the balloon to the top of the bottle. What happens?*

*Adapted from Kathie Reimer, *1001 Ways to Help Your Child Walk With God* (Wheaton, Ill. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1994), pp. 86, 87.

T H U R S D A Y

DO Who can have Jesus' "living water," or everlasting life? For the answer, sing "John 3:16" (Sing for Joy, no. 24). Below are some examples of "whosoever." These "problem people" were Jesus' friends. Find the verses and unscramble their names.

Luke 19:2 cahcaezus _____

Luke 8:2 ramy _____

Matthew 10:4 sajud _____

Luke 17:12 reelps _____

PRAY Pray for someone who is a "problem" person.

F R I D A Y

DO Use cushions to create a "well." Hide a pitcher of cool water and some cups in the "well." Then pass out some salty snack foods. Tell your family this week's Bible story and ask them if they are getting thirsty. Give them a drink from your well.

DO Read together Isaiah 55:1, first part, and Revelation 21:6. Ask Jesus to give your family some of His living water.

DO Hold up your colorful memory verse poster. Ask your family to say your memory verse with you.

Living
Water?

PUZZLE

Directions: To find out an important message, cross out every other letter beginning with the second letter of each word.

Jhecseuosh

lbomveeck

aplwlx tzhrej

pqebovpxlted

ilnp ogusrw

wyolrnlvda

