

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had trouble loving someone? This lesson shows how Jesus went to a woman who most people did not like. The Samaritan woman was an outcast. No one wanted to talk to her or be around her, but Jesus did. He had created her and loved her. We should love each other because we are all created in God's image. We all need the Holy Spirit to help us love others, especially people others reject. The children will learn that Jesus knows them and loves them. Saved children will be challenged to ask the Holy Spirit to help them love people who are hard to love.

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

- **Jesus:** Reason for coming—Jesus came to save me.
- **Holy Spirit:** As soon as I have trusted Christ as Savior, God the Holy Spirit comes to live within me. As I am filled with the Holy Spirit, I am able to obey God by loving others.
- **God:** Love—God is always loving.
- **God:** Omniscient—God knows all things.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series, are available at: cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc



WORD UP!

"Jesus loves everyone!"

Close your eyes and think about a person you love. Maybe it's your best friend, your parents, your grandparents or a teacher. We all have people in our lives we love but there is someone who loves more people than we can even count! The Bible tells us that Jesus loves absolutely everyone in the entire world! Whenever you hear the words "Word Up!" jump up and shout out "**Jesus loves everyone!**" (*Say with children.*)

Materials

Word-Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: "**Jesus loves everyone!**" Tell them that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!



SMALL GROUP TIME

"Changed Heart" (Optional activity)

(*Give each child a ball of play dough.*) Try to change this ball of play dough into a heart shape. (*Give the children some time to make a heart out of their play dough. As they are doing so, discuss the following questions.*) If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit changes your heart. What do you think it means that the Holy Spirit changes your heart? (*Allow response.*) It means He changes the way you think, feel and act to help you be more like Jesus. (*Give a personal example of how the Holy Spirit has changed your heart.*) Only God the Holy Spirit can change your heart; you can't do it on your own. Think about one way your heart needs to be changed to make you more like Jesus. You don't need to say it out loud. (*Allow children time to think.*) Bow your head and close your eyes. Silently pray and ask the Holy Spirit to change your heart. (*After a moment of silence, pray for the children and yourself.*)

If you wish to add actions to the Word Up!, touch right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm when you say "Jesus." Cross hands over your heart when you say "loves." Spread arms wide when you say "everyone."

Materials

Play dough



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Materials

Signs with town names
Obstacles

Preschool Help

Adapt this introduction for young children by telling them you are going to show them two ways to walk across the room and you want them to tell you which way is faster. Then go across the room first by going all the way around the room then by crossing it in a straight line. If possible, have the children walk with you and explain how much easier and faster it is to walk straight to where you are going.

(Choose three children and/or adult volunteers. Give each a sign with names of a nearby town on it. Have two children stand on either side of the room with the third child between them.) Each of these signs represents a town near us. *(Call a fourth child to come to the front.)* I would like you to stand by *(name of first town)*. Now show us the fastest way to get from there to *(name of third town)*. Now show us a much longer way to get to *(third town)*. *(Encourage child to walk around the room detouring around a few obstacles. Have helpers sit down.)* Why would anyone want to go the long way instead of the short way? *(Allow response.)*

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 1

The Bible tells us about a place the Jewish people (Israelites) would not go near. This place was called Samaria. The Jewish people would not go through Samaria to get anywhere because they hated the Samaritans and would do anything to avoid them.

Slide 2

Jews would never talk to a Samaritan. There were many reasons why the Jews hated the Samaritans. The Samaritans didn't like the Jews either. One reason they didn't like each other is because they did not believe the same things about God. The Jews and Samaritans would fight over who believed the right things about God.

If a Jewish person passed a Samaritan on the road, he would even walk in the ditch so their shadows wouldn't touch. Jewish people would take a different road even though going through Samaria was the fastest way. Sometimes they would go all the way over by the Jordan River or all the way over by the Mediterranean Sea.

Slide 3

One day Jesus and His disciples needed to make a trip. The shortest route would take them right through Samaria. Which way do you think Jesus went? *(Allow response.)*

The Bible says, *(read John 4:3-4)*. Jesus walked right through Samaria! Why would He do that? Because Jesus loved all people!

Slide 4

Say with me, **"Jesus loves everyone!"** *(Say with children.)* He even loves those no one else does. Loving others no one else loves is hard isn't it?



Did you know that if you have believed on Jesus, He wants you to love everyone? You are commanded to love each other, even the people you don't like, because they are created by God just like you are. The Bible says, *(read Matthew 5:44)*. Jesus told people to love even their enemies and to pray for those who were mean to them.

Materials

Point to Samaria on Bible map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Help

Explain that a Samaritan was a person who lived in or came from Samaria.

Materials

Show route on Bible map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Song

"God Makes Me Glad"

Don't say a name out loud, but can you think quietly to yourself of someone who is hard for you to love? Maybe it's someone who most other people don't like. Maybe it's someone who is mean to you. It can be very hard to love people who are mean or who others do not like, but because you have God the Holy Spirit living in you, He will help you love them. If you have believed on Jesus, **ask the Holy Spirit to help you love people who are hard to love.** He will give you love for them and the courage and ability to treat them right even when others don't.

Slide 5

Jesus loves everyone. He loved the Samaritans and so He chose to walk through Samaria. He and His disciples had been walking all day. Stand up and walk in place while I count to ten then pretend to be really tired. (*Do with children.*) It was a tiring journey. They came to a town with a well where the people got their water. His disciples went into town to buy some food and Jesus sat down to rest. Why would Jesus need to stop and rest if He is God? Jesus is fully God but because He was also fully man, He needed to rest and eat when He was on Earth. He got tired and hungry just like you do.

Slide 6

Shortly after Jesus sat down to rest, He saw a Samaritan woman carrying a large jar. She ignored Jesus and prepared to fill the jar with water.

Jesus asked her, "Will you give Me a drink?" Jesus was talking to a Samaritan! Why do you think He was talking to her? How do you think the woman felt about a Jewish man talking to her? (*Allow responses.*) The Jewish people hated her. Even her own people were not really friends with her. She was coming to the well in the middle of the day when it was hot and the other women would not be there.

But Jesus was different. He is the perfect Son of God. He cared about this woman even though she was a Samaritan.



Jesus cares for every person because He created every person. **He knows and loves you** because He created you. (*Read 1 John 4:19.*) Long before you even had heard about God, He knew you and loved you.

Slide 7

Say with me, "**Jesus loves everyone!**" (*Say with children.*) He knows everything about you—where you live, what your favorite food is and your favorite things to do. He even knows what you will be when you grow up! Jesus is God. He is good and holy. This means everything He does is right and perfect. He cares for you and He cares for those who other people do not love.

Slide 8

Jesus cared about this woman even though she was a Samaritan and others did not like her. Jesus asked her for a drink. She was so surprised that He would speak to her. She knew how the Jewish people felt about Samaritans.

Teacher Help

Be clear that it is never okay for someone to be mean to a child. You may need to tell the children that if there is someone who is being mean to them or someone who makes them do things that hurt or scare them, they should tell someone they can trust. Encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit for courage to love the person who is hurting them by telling a trusted adult about what is happening. Telling on someone who is hurting you is actually a way to show love for that person because it can help that person learn about the right way to treat others.

Preschool Activity

Give each child a paper cup and let them pretend to carry it to a well and fill it with water.

Preschool Song

"Jesus Loves Me" v. 1

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Teacher Help

Many children struggle with a negative self-image because of their appearance or difficult circumstances in their lives. If you suspect students are struggling with this, you may want to adapt the examples in this application of things that God knows to reflect God's unconditional love for them. *E.g., God knows exactly what you look like; God knows everything that has ever happened to you—even secrets that nobody else knows; there may be things about yourself that you don't like, but there is nothing about you that can ever make God stop loving you.*

Lesson 3

Materials

"Omniscient" card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have children say omniscient three times, first in a whisper, then louder and louder. Each time they could point with both hands to their head.

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible" v. 3

Slide 9

After Jesus had asked for a drink, He talked with her. He even told her that He was the one God sent to save the people from their sins! She tried to change the subject and talk about something else. But Jesus did not give up on her. Instead, He told her, "Go call your husband and come back."

The woman answered, "I have no husband." Her answer didn't surprise Jesus. He knew all about the woman's life because He is God.

"That's true," Jesus said. "You have had five husbands and the man you're living with now is not your husband." When Jesus told the woman about herself, He showed that He is God. There is a big word we can use about God.

Slide 10

That word is *omniscient*. This word means "all knowing." Jesus knew everything about her and loved her even though she was a sinner.



God knows everything about you. He knows when you are happy and when you are sad. He knows when you obey your parents, are kind to others and tell the truth. God also knows when you sin even when no one else knows. To sin is to do, say or think things that are against what God says is right. He knows when you lie and hurt others. When you do not love people, that is sin. You and I were born with sin. (Read *Romans 3:10*.) Righteous means "does right all the time." No one does right all the time except God. Even though He loves you and me, the Bible says God hates sin. God takes sin very seriously because He is holy. The punishment for sin is separation from God now and forever, which is the worst thing ever. He knows all about you and your sin but He loves you anyway.

Slide 11

Jesus knows everything about you just like He knew about the Samaritan woman. Wouldn't you be surprised if someone you didn't know began telling you all about yourself? This woman was surprised too! She thought Jesus must be a prophet—one who spoke for God—since He knew all about her.

She said to Him, "I know the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will tell us all things." The Messiah was the promised Savior. Jesus is the Messiah. He came to save the world from the punishment of sin.

Jesus said to her, (read *John 4:26*). Jesus told the woman He is the Messiah. He is the one who came into the world to save everyone who would believe on Him from the punishment sin brings.



Our memory verse tells about this. (*Quote John 3:17 with children.*) God sent Jesus, His only Son, to save you, not to punish you for the wrong you have done. **Jesus knows you and loves you.**

Slide 12

Say with me, **“Jesus loves everyone!”** (*Say with children.*) Jesus lived perfectly. He never sinned. He did not deserve to die but He willingly took your place because of His love for you. (*Read Revelation 1:5b.*) On the cross when the nails were put into His hands and feet, Jesus’ blood flowed out and He died. Jesus bled and died so you could be forgiven for all the wrong things you have done. He did not stay dead though! He came alive again so all who believe on Him will be saved from the punishment of sin. He is alive in Heaven today ruling over all things. He is the Messiah.

Slide 13

Jesus told the woman He is the Messiah, the one who would save the world from the punishment sin brings.

Jesus’ words must have shocked the woman. She wondered, *Could this man really be the Messiah?*

CLIMAX

Slide 14

She ran back to the city and told everyone she met, “Come see a man who told me everything I’ve done! Could He be the Christ (Messiah)?”

CONCLUSION

Slide 15

The people hurried to see Jesus. They were surprised at the woman’s words and wanted to see if Jesus truly was the promised Savior they had been waiting for. Many of the Samaritans believed on Jesus because of what the woman had said and because they heard Him for themselves. They believed on Jesus as their Savior.

INVITATION



Have you believed on Jesus as your Savior? He loves you and cares for you no matter what sinful things you have done. Jesus knows all about you and loves you so much that He died for you. Acts 16:31 says, (*read from Bible*). To believe means to trust that Jesus died on the cross and came alive again so you could be saved from the punishment of sin. When you are saved, God the Holy Spirit helps you live for God as He created you to do. Will you agree with God about your sin and believe on Him? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you are ready to believe on Jesus as your Savior today, will you show me by looking up at me? (*Acknowledge responses.*) Everyone can open their eyes now. If you looked up at me and want to talk to me about it, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and I can show you from the Bible more about believing on Jesus.

Preschool Song

“I Believe the Bible” vv. 4-5

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have the children run in place and shout
“Come and see!”

Preschool Song

“I Believe the Bible” v. 6

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child’s expression of that belief to God. (See “Guiding a Child to the Savior” on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:15 and “believe in” terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing in Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.