**Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

**A Bible Story From**

**John 4:1-42**

**Bible Story Number: 2010120**

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**Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story tells of Jesus in a cross-cultural situation. He meets a Samaritan woman. The Jews hated the Samaritans. Women were also looked down upon in Jesus’ day and not given equal standing with men.

**Story from the Bible**

**John 4:1-42**

This is what the Bible says.

When Jesus was becoming well known and had more followers than John the Baptist, he left Judea and went back to Galilee. Traveling through Samaria was the most direct route.

Jesus came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, which is near the property that Jacob gave his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there.

Jesus was tired from the journey and he sat down at the well. It was about noon. His disciples went into the town to buy food while he rested there.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus asked her to give him a drink.

She asked Jesus, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” She asked this because Jews did not associate with Samaritans, especially women.

Jesus answered, “If you knew God’s gift and who I am, you would be asking me and I would give you living water.”

She did not understand his response. She said, “You don’t even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this ‘living water’? You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock.”

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life.”

She said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t get thirsty and have to come here to draw water.”

Jesus told her, “Go call your husband, and come back here.”

She replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

Jesus then said, “You were right when you said, ‘I don't have a husband,’ for you’ve had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

“Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, yet you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus told her, “Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Jesus, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the Messiah, the one speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was going against the customs and was talking with a woman. But they didn’t ask him about it.

Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the men, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?” They left the town and made their way to him.

In the meantime, the disciples kept urging Jesus to eat something. But Jesus said, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

The disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat while we were gone?”

Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, then comes the harvest’? Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together.”

Many Samaritans from the town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. They believed her when she said that Jesus had told her everything she had ever done.

Therefore, when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of what he said. And they told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Why did Jesus return to Galilee?
* Why did Jesus stop at the well?
* Where did the disciples go?
* What was the first thing Jesus asked of the woman?
* How did the woman respond when Jesus asked her for water to drink?
* What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman? What was her response?
* What did Jesus tell her to do when she asked for the living water he offered?
* Why do you think Jesus told her to go and get her husband?
* What was the woman’s response when Jesus told her to go and get her husband?
* What did Jesus say when the woman said that she did not have a husband?
* The woman recognized Jesus as a prophet because he knew about her five husbands and the man she was living with now that was not her husband. Why do you think she asked Jesus about where to worship (this mountain or Jerusalem)?
* What did Jesus say about worship?
* Who did the woman say would answer the question?
* Why did Jesus wait so long to tell her he was the Messiah?
* What did the woman do when Jesus told her he was the Messiah?
* Were the disciples surprised when they returned and found him talking to a woman?
* What did the disciples ask Jesus to do? What was his response? Why were they confused by his response? What was Jesus’ complete response?
* Why did many Samaritans believe in Jesus?
* How long did Jesus stay there? Why is that significant?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.