

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



JOHN 4 LIVING WATER

Scripture: John 4:1-14

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: 3 water bottles, 6 straws (more if you make a mistake), hot glue gun and glue, drill, scissors, sponges, buckets of water.

Experiment

Depending on how much time you have, you may want to make the experiment before class and simply use it as a visual. The idea is to create a fountain using head pressure.

On Youtube, DaveHax creates a "Nonstop Heron's Fountain" which is the fountain I used in this lesson. I will place instructions and pictures at the end of this lesson, but looking there may help you see and understand better.

Explain:

Last week we learned about Nicodemus and Jesus. Today we are going to see Jesus encounter another person. A Samaritan woman at a well. Does anyone know what a Samaritan was? (Considered "half-breeds" by the Jews, they hated Samaritans because they had intermarried with other people groups. They disagreed over where they should worship God. There was so much hatred among these groups that Jews would often go out of their way to travel around Samaria, rather than go through it.) The person Jesus talks to is also a woman. In this time, men and women didn't just sit down and talk to each other. This would have been considered inappropriate and scandalous. Finally, the woman is at the well in the middle of the day. This is unusual, as typically women would go together in the morning to draw water, before it got too hot. Some have presumed that she was an outcast because of her life choices and that she didn't have many friends. How beautiful it is that Jesus chooses to meet with her and reveal himself.

Read: John 4:1-14

Ask:

How is the woman responding to Jesus? (A bit sassy, with a lot of questions, etc)
What do you think Jesus means when he says that he is the Living water? (We need him to live. He satisfies. He doesn't run out).

Explain:

Jesus is what we need. In life, it's easy to run to things that won't fill us. Later in this chapter, we learn that the woman had had 5 husbands. She wasn't living according to the Word of God, and perhaps she was searching for peace in a husband. We search for peace and joy in a lot of places. Sometimes we might think we can find joy in an activity or in a toy. Those things aren't wrong, but they can't bring us life. If we go to anything other than God to fill us, it will leak out of us and we will feel just as lost, if not more. Jeremiah 2:13 says: "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." When we try to fill our lives with water that isn't the Living Water, our cisterns leak and we are left empty. Let's play a game to see this.

Game:

Outside, have a water relay. Have two buckets filled with water. Across from those buckets, have two empty buckets. Dividing into two groups, have the kids fill up and carry a cup with holes in it from the full bucket to the empty bucket.

Explain:

Did you notice how much our cisterns leaked? The things we try to find joy and peace and hope in on this earth may hold that for a little while, but in the end it leaks away and we are still empty. We need living water. Take the kids back inside and show them the experiment.

Experiment:

If you created this beforehand, explain to the kids that we need living water that wells up within us. We need Jesus to fill us because his supply is never ending. We are going to make a never-ending waterfall. Now, it isn't actually never ending. It ends as soon as our water gets back down to the bottom bottle because I'm not Jesus. But this is our reminder that there is a well that doesn't run dry. Jesus is our living water, who supplies all our needs and is the only thing that satisfies our souls.

To make the fountain, make a cut in 3 different colored straws and insert another straw of the same color. Cover these with hot glue to stop leaks. This lengthens your straw.



Glue together two of your water bottle caps and drill two holes. Drill two holes in the remaining cap.



Cut a hole in the bottom of a bottle. Make sure the hole is smaller than the cap, but not so small that it covers the holes you drilled in the cap.



Place one long straw through a hole in the bottle. Leave its end about an inch above the bottom. Secure and water proof with hot glue around the hole. Place the double cap on. Place another straw in the other hole and run it up through the bottle with a hole in the bottom. Glue the cap over the hole of the bottle, placing the straw through one of the holes in the cap. Secure and waterproof with hot glue. Place the final straw in the other hole. Secure and waterproof with hot glue.



Cut the third bottle's top off. This will be your funnel. Screw it onto the top cap. Secure with hot glue, making sure you don't glue over your small straw. The long straw sticking out will be your fountain.



After all is dry, fill the bottle with water. Once all of the water is in the bottom bottle, prime the pump by turning it upside down and allowing the water to flow into the middle bottle. Flip it back upright, place a splash of water into the top funnel again, and watch your fountain work!



Apply:

Can you think of any wells that you are drawing from that aren't living water?
This week, how can we draw from the well of Living Water? (Read Bibles, spend time in prayer)

Memorize: John 4:13-14

Close in Prayer