

Focus: God's love is for everyone

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs
Gospel: Children's Everyday Bible
Ping pong ball
Book: Whoever you are

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how important it is to listen to what Jesus teaches us. He loves us and wants us to be with God forever. This week listen closely as we hear Jesus tell us that he is the Son of God and will save everyone from sin.*

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Let us pray.

Dear God, thank you for the gift of Baptism. We are blessed by the water of Baptism to be the children of God. Help us to follow your Son, Jesus, who gives us the water of life that never ends.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Song/Movement

I Will Call Upon the Lord, track: 17, from [America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs](#)

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

*I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies*

*(Echo in parentheses)
I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy to be praised)
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So shall I be saved from my enemies)*

*Chorus: The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock
 And let the God of my salvation be exalted
 The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock
 And let the God of my salvation be exalted*

*(Echo in parentheses)
I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy to be praised)
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So shall I be saved from my enemies)*

Repeat the Chorus 2 times

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

Drink the water that Jesus offers, you will never be thirsty again.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Just as water can fill a pail, the Holy Spirit can fill us with God's love and joy. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help his followers and we receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. When someone is very thirsty, a cool drink of water is just what they need. The Holy Spirit fills us with love and joy, which is just what we need to be followers of Jesus.*

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

Read: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 230-231, *The Woman at the Well and Water of Everlasting Life*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion Starters:

- *Where does Jesus meet the Samaritan woman?*
- *What does Jesus ask the woman for?*
- *Why is the Samaritan woman surprised?*
- *What kind of water does Jesus offer the woman?*
- *Does the woman accept Jesus' gift?*
- *What does she do next?*
- *Why do you think Jesus spoke to someone from another town?*
- *(Jesus loves everybody the same, no matter who you are or where you live. God's promise is for everyone.)*
- *How do you think Jesus' friends felt about him speaking with the woman at the well? (confused, surprised...)*

Reflection on Reading:

Many of us have wells in our yard that bring water into our houses. These wells depend on electricity to pump the water up out of the ground into each house.

Back in the days of Jesus a town usually had only one well and each day the someone from the family would go to the well, take long piece of rope with a pail on the end and pull/draw the water up from a very deep hole and dump it in a bucket or jar and then carry the water back home.

Jesus was travelling with his disciples in the heat of the day and went to the well to get a drink. It was there he met the woman and taught her about the living water he will offer

the world. Since water is an important part of our lives, Jesus used it to compare how important the Holy Spirit is for us. The Holy Spirit helps us to choose what is right and to love others and be kind when we don't want to be. The Holy Spirit is very important to help us live like Jesus wants us to live.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Hot Potato Praise

Jesus taught to people all over the country side. He didn't just choose one group to teach. Imagine if the people of Southbury decided that they wouldn't talk to the people in other towns anymore. Or if your class didn't talk to another class. What do you think it would be like? Jesus teaches us to that God loves everyone, that everyone is our neighbor, whether they live near or far.

Use a song from the CD for the opening and closing songs
Ping Pong Ball (for the potato)

Have the children sit in a circle, passing the "hot potato" as quickly as possible while the music plays. When the music stops, the player holding the "hot potato" must tell one thing we can do to show God's love to others and take care of our neighbor. When they are done, everyone else shouts: Love God! –alternately with- Love your neighbor!

No one is "out" or has to leave the circle. Play continues as time permits.

Activity 2:

Say: One important idea to remember from today's Gospel story is that God loves everyone, everywhere.

Read the book: **Whoever You Are.**

End in prayer:

Dear Jesus, you teach us to love others. Help us to listen to the Holy Spirit so that we may love others who are near or far. Bless those who live far away and those who are near so that their lives, and our lives, show God's love to all.

Amen.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who has the power to bless us with life giving water?
Do you believe in Jesus, who is the living water for all to have everlasting life?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, whose life flows within us?*

Sending Forth

Say: *This week remember that Jesus is the water of life everlasting. When you drink a cup of water., say a prayer to Jesus thanking him for loving you so much and giving you what you need to be filled with love and joy.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Change my heart o' God.*" track 23 from [America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs](#) while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.