

Lessons for the Leader

Most likely you have heard the statement, "Children learn more by example than words." Do you agree with this statement? What kind of example do you set for the children in your ministry?

- Read John 4:7-9. What types of encounters do you think the woman had experienced with Jewish people?
- Read John 4:10-12. Imagine the tone of voice with which the woman replies. How would you describe her response?
- Read John 4:13-15. Do you think the woman understood the type of water Jesus described? How would you respond?
- Read John 4:16-18. How would you feel if someone you had never met before starting telling you about your life? Notice the way in which Jesus drew attention to her life. He did not condemn or disgrace her. He simply stated the truth.
- Read John 4:19-26. What lessons did Jesus teach the woman? How do you think the woman felt when Jesus told her that He was the Messiah? How would you respond?
- Read John 4:27-30. Why do you think the townspeople were so ready to follow the woman to the well? How well do people respond to the message you share with them?

Reflect on the events at the well. In what ways do you see Jesus showing love to the woman? What cultural norms did He ignore? What impact do you think He had on the woman and the people of the town? What about you? How do you demonstrate love to the children you teach? Are you following Jesus' example by reaching out to people? Ask God to help you become more like Jesus in everything you do.

What do these symbols mean?

- ➔ **Application Activities Format:** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.
- 1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



The Way Jesus Loves

Focus Passage: John 4:1-30

Key Bible Verse: John 13:34

Life Application

I can follow Jesus' example by showing love to other people.

Level of Biblical Learning (Self)

I can follow the examples, teachings, and commandments of Jesus.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Greet the Children
Play "Give, Help, Tell"

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Whoa!"
Pray/Receive Offering
Sing "I Just Love Worshipping You"
Tell the Bible Story
Review the Bible Story
Apply the Bible Story
Learn the Key Bible Verse
Show "Jack Spade" Video #1
Sing "Almighty God"
Pray

Application Activities

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

1 → Greet the Children

2 → Play "Give, Help, Tell"

- Position the children in two rows facing each other.
- Explain that this game is played in the same manner as "Rock, Paper, Scissors." The symbols are "give" (palm held facing up), "help" (fist on palm of other hand), "tell" (forefinger touches chin). "Give" beats "help," "help" beats "tell," and "tell" beats "give."
- Play several rounds, rotating to the right in order to change partners each round.
- Read the life application statement. Explain that this game tells some ways to show love to other people.
- Say: "Let's learn more about showing love to other people."

Worship

3 → Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 3 minutes)

4 → Pray/Receive Offering (2 minutes)

5 → Sing "I Just Love Worshiping You" (DVD, 3 minutes)

6 → Tell the Bible Story (8 minutes)

Pull It Together

Small bottles of water (1 per child)

- Print "Woman at Well" teaching picture (CD).

- Display the teaching picture.
- Call on a volunteer to use a rhyming word to name an object that he sees in the picture. Assure him that the rhyming word can be a made up word.
- Invite a different volunteer to name the object suggested by the rhyming word. Discuss briefly with the children how the object appears or fits in with the picture.
- Repeat this naming process to discuss several objects in the picture.
- Say: "This picture reminds me of a story in the Bible where Jesus showed love to a stranger."
- Distribute a bottle of water to each child.

The Way Jesus Loves

- Instruct the children to listen quietly as they drink their water.
- Open your Bible to John 4:1-30.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

Jesus and a Woman at a Well

Based on John 4:1-30

Jesus and His disciples came to a town in Samaria. While the disciples bought food in town, Jesus sat by a well to rest from His journey. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus asked her for a drink. She was surprised because Jews usually did not talk to Samaritans.

Jesus told the woman that He would give her living water if she asked Him. She was confused because Jesus had no container for getting water out of the well. How could He give her living water?

Jesus was not talking about magic water that would keep people young forever. Jesus explained that the well water would only satisfy her for a short time and then her thirst would return, but He could give her a gift of life that would never end.

The woman had done many wrong things in her life. The people of the town may have thought badly of her because of these sins. Jesus knew of her sins, but He still loved her. He taught her how to worship God. He wanted her to have eternal life. He told her that He was the Messiah!

The woman went back to the town and told the men to come see Jesus.

7 → Review the Bible Story (7 minutes)

Pull It Together

Poster board, markers

- Form three teams.
- Provide each team with a piece of poster board and a marker.
- Assign a different task to each team: (1) Make a list of people mentioned in the Bible story, (2) Make a list of things mentioned in the Bible story, and (3) Make a list of places mentioned in the Bible story.

- Allow each team to share its list. Comment briefly on the role of each item in the story.
- Assign a different question to each team:
 - (1) To whom does Jesus want me to show love?
 - (2) What does Jesus want me to do to show love to others?
 - (3) Where does Jesus want me to go to show love to others?
- Instruct team members to work together to come up with an answer. Suggest that each team write its answer on the back of its poster board.
- Allow each team to share its answer. Affirm the children for their participation.

8 Apply the Bible Story (6 minutes)

Pull It Together Worship Guides

- Distribute the Worship Guides.
- Practice with the children by helping them pronounce the phrases on the Worship Guides.
- Instruct the children to mingle throughout the room, greeting one another using the various phrases from the Worship Guides. Advise the children to continue mingling and greeting until you call time.
- Instruct the children to mingle again, this time greeting each other by naming a way to show love.
- Call time and invite volunteers to share the different ways of showing love they heard as they mingled.
- Say: "Respond to each statement with a motion. If you think the statement tells about someone showing love, put your hand over your heart. If you think the statement tells about someone not showing love, make an X with your arms."

1. Leah prays for a sick friend.
2. Marcus apologizes for teasing his sister.
3. Juanita talks to Kelly while Mr. Brown gives instructions to the class.
4. Bruce breaks his promise to play a video game with his little brother.
5. Cathy lies to get out of trouble.
6. Max takes credit for a job that Alex did.
7. Danielle forgives Steve for taking money out of her purse.
8. Jonas makes fun of Amanda because of the way she talks.
9. Vicky shares her lunch with Scott because he forgot his lunch money.
10. Jackson invites Will and Tom to come to church with his family.

9 → Learn the Key Bible Verse (4 minutes)

- Instruct the children to listen closely as you read the key Bible verse from your Bible. Read the verse several times.
- Say: "I will read the verse again. This time, I will replace one of the words with a silly word."
- Read the verse again, replacing one of the words with the word "blorp."
- Call on a volunteer to name the replaced word. Play several rounds, replacing a different word or phrase with "blorp."

10 → Show "Jack Spade" Video #1 (DVD, 8 minutes)

- Ask: "How does the way we treat people show what we feel about them? Have you ever heard the statement 'Actions speak louder than words'? What does that mean? Let's discover how Mr. Davis' actions sent a message to Ben."
- Show video.
- Ask: "How would you describe the relationship between Ben and Mr. Davis? Why do you think Ben feels Mr. Davis does not like him?"
- Continue: "What can we do if people act like they don't love us? Why should we love people who we feel do not love us?"

11 Sing "Almighty God" (DVD, 3 minutes)

12 Pray (1 minute)

13 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up.

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

14 Complete Worship Guides (5 minutes)

- Guide children to complete the “Love Is/Love Is Not” activity on their Worship Guides.
- Lead the children to respond to each of the following statements by using the same motions described in the *Apply the Bible Story* activity (Step #8).

1. I pray for someone.
2. I encourage someone.
3. I ignore someone.
4. I make fun of someone.
5. I share with someone.
6. I tell someone about Jesus.
7. I invite someone to church.
8. I lie to someone.
9. I am jealous of someone.
10. I obey my parents.

15 Sing “Our God Reigns” (DVD, 3 minutes)

16 Pray (1 minute)

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

14 → Share Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite children to share their Application Activity experiences.
 - Arts and Crafts—Floor Signs
 - Dramatic Play—Love In Action Skits
 - Games—Guess the Loving Action
 - Exploration and Discovery—Drawing Example

15 → Complete Worship Guides (5 minutes)

- Guide the children to complete the “Love Is/Love Is Not” activity on their Worship Guides.