

Collective Worship Plan

Series: Aru, Boga, Chester (ABC) Link

Collective Worship Title: Jesus the Giver of Life
Theme: Jesus, the Living Water
Background: John 4 v 5-26
Keywords: Jesus, water, well, life
Resources: Three small hoops (or other objects that can be carried on the head) Image of women carrying water containers on their head. Child friendly Bible (or see below)
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>If you ever visited DR Congo in the middle of Africa one of the things that you may see would be the children and women carrying water. Many of the homes in DR Congo do not have taps and sinks or baths like the ones we have in our homes. The people have to carry the water they use for cleaning and for cooking and drinking from wells in the fields all the way to their homes. They carry the water, as they carry most things, on their heads (show image of women carrying water).</p> <p>I wonder how easy you would find it to carry the water. To help us think about this we are going to have a race. (Choose 3 children and set up a short course so that they can race with the hoops on their heads, if they drop the hoop they have to start again. For older children you can make it more difficult by adding obstacles to the course).</p>
<p>Main content:</p> <p>The Bible tells us that one day Jesus met a woman at a well. (Read the story of the Samaritan woman from John 4 from a child friendly Bible or tell story in your own words.)</p> <p>John 4</p> <p>In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar. Jesus was tired from his long trip, so he sat down beside a well. It was about twelve o'clock noon. When a Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water, Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." The woman said, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink, since you are a Jewish man and I am a Samaritan woman." (Jewish people are not friends with Samaritans.) Jesus said, "If you only knew the free gift of God and who it is that is asking you for water, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said, "Sir, where will you get this living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with. Are you greater than Jacob, our father, who gave us this well and drank from it himself along with his sons and flocks?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty again."</p>

Have you ever heard news readers on television say that scientists are looking for life on Mars or on another planet. What do the scientists look for to show there may be life? (ask the children to suggest answers).

The scientists actually test for water as a sign that there may be life on the planet. Water is a sign of life.

Response:

When Jesus offers "living water" to the Samaritan woman in our story it is as if He is offering her Life. Not life as we think about it when we think of breathing and eating and drinking but a special life which is living in the way that God wants us to live. God wants us to be kind and caring, to be honest and loving, to be content with what we have and to learn to be more like Jesus.

We saw that carrying items on our heads can be difficult and sometimes living in the way God wants us to live can be difficult too. But if we ask God He will help us to be the people He wants us to be. Let's talk to God and ask Him to help us :-

Prayer:

Heavenly Father

Help us to be the kind of people You want us to be.

Help us to be loving.

Help us to be kind.

Help us to care for others.

Help us to tell the truth.

Help us to be content with what we have.

Help us to be generous with what we have.

Help us to be more like Jesus.

Amen