

DAY 1

Meet Jesus!

Discover His Special Claims

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 4:5–26

PRECIOUS GOLD MEMORY VERSE

“God loved us and sent His Son.” 1 John 4:10

GEM TO TREASURE

Don't be fooled by counterfeits!

LESSON AIM

Children will learn that Jesus is one of a kind. He is God. He is the perfect Creator. He is special! No other person ever has been or ever will be like Jesus.

Today's Discovery Centers

- Coloring Corner: 1 John 4:10
- Touch Table: Woman at the Well
- Dramatic Play: Old West Dress Up
- Exploration Station: Name of Jesus Rubbing

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Lesson Time
 - Part One: Woman at the Well
 - Part Two: Puppet Pal—A Special Meeting
- Song Time
 - Song One: *Jesus at the Well*
 - Song Two: *Oh, God's Son*
- Memory Verse/Review Time
 - Part One: Precious Gold Memory Verse
 - Part Two: Go and Do

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read John 4:5–26 to prepare for teaching about the one and only Jesus.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials**FROM TEACHER RESOURCE PACK**

- Memory verse poster
- Daily overview poster
- Bold Claims poster

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE CD-ROM

- 2 copies of today's puppet script

OTHER MATERIALS

- Bible
- Old West costumes for teachers
- Discovery Center supplies (see back cover)
- Basket or bag to put Bible in
- “Well” supplies (see page 25)
- Boy or girl puppet
- Puppet-size d cape, crown, or wand
- Clipboard
- Optional: Today's coin, 1 per child
- Optional: Student guides and supplies (see page 28)

Today's Devotional: Meet Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

Imagine meeting a man who claimed to be God. What would you think? Crazy nut?

Now imagine this man claimed to be the fulfillment of statements written hundreds of years before. Sure, sure, weirdo.

Now imagine the little boy down the street who had died was running around again. The man who claimed to be God had raised him from the dead. It was no trick—you had seen the boy after he died, and he was now playing with your kids.

Makes you think, doesn't it? Could this man really be who he claimed to be?

This is our Savior.

Even though today, we would (and should) scoff at someone staking a claim to deity, Jesus Christ was the real deal. He was the Creator incarnate, the God-man, the One who came to save His people from their sins, fulfilling the promises God had made since the beginning of time.

As you study your Bible this week, focus your attention on the four gospels. Put aside the genteel storybook notions that cloud the truth about the Messiah. And read the accounts as if for the first time, marveling at the astounding claims Jesus made ("before Abraham was, I AM"); the awesome demonstrations of His power over

nature, sin, and death; the amazing fact that He *rose from the dead*; and the astonishing change in the lives of those He touched.

Of all the people who have ever lived, ever led a religion, ever claimed to be a deity, only Jesus has the credentials to deserve our worship and following. And the only way we can know the truth about Him is through His inspired Word, the Bible.

As you prepare to meet Jesus with your students today, let's meditate on this Puritan Prayer about the Rock of Ages.

Thou Great I AM,
Fill my mind with elevation and grandeur at the
thought of a Being
With whom one day is as a thousand years, and a
thousand years as one day.
A mighty God who, amidst the lapse of the worlds,
and the revolutions of empires,
Feels no variableness but is glorious in immortality.
May I rejoice that, while men die, the Lord lives;
That, while all creatures are broken reeds, empty
cisterns, fading flowers, withering grass,
He is the Rock of Ages, the fountain of Living
Waters.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision*
(The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005), p. 104.



Discovery Centers

Coloring Corner: 1 John 4:10

MATERIALS

- Covered wagon decorating supplies (see page 13)
- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet
- Markers or crayons in a small galvanized bucket

PRE-PREP

- Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child. Make or gather the decorating supplies and set them up.

DIRECTIONS

- Color the sheet.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

Add additional supplies to the coloring sheets, such as having the kids use glue sticks to glue on cotton balls for clouds or scraps of material for clothing.

Touch Table: Woman at the Well

MATERIALS

- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or light blue plastic tablecloth (your “stream”)
- “Well” (bottom half of gallon milk containers, permanent markers and scissors)
- Water
- Small plastic cups or film containers for “water pots”
- Miscellaneous small plastic containers

PRE-PREP

- Place a tarp or tablecloth on the ground under the touch table. This will be used all week. For today, prepare one or more “wells” by cutting the milk jugs and drawing stones on them with a permanent marker. Fill each partway with water and place in the touch table.

DIRECTIONS

- Children fill their water pots (small cups) at the well and transfer the water to plastic containers. Monitor their water play carefully.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Today we’re learning about the woman at the well who met Jesus for the first time. Can you imagine meeting Jesus (GOD!) for the first time? The woman was amazed because Jesus told her all about her past. Jesus knows everything about every one us, including what you are thinking right now and how many hairs are on your head! That’s because Jesus is God!

Dramatic Play: Old West Dress Up

MATERIALS

Choose from the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.

- Log cabin backdrop (see page 12)
- Old West supplies (e.g., small table and chairs, barrels, baskets, olden-days play food [eggs, cheese, etc.], stick horses, tin plates, play cooking utensils and bowls, pretend sacks of flour and sugar, canteen, baby cradle and baby doll, rolled up blankets, plastic play tools)
- Costumes (e.g., bandanas, boots, cowboy hats, flannel shirts, bonnets, pioneer dresses, aprons, vests—children’s vests can be made from material or large brown grocery sacks)
- Safe pitcher and cups

PRE-PREP

- Set up the log cabin, Old West supplies, and costumes.

DIRECTIONS

- Dress up and pretend to be living in the Old West. Use the pitcher and cups today so they can pretend to pour water.

TEACHING TIE-IN

There’s a pitcher and cups in the log cabin today. People got hot and dusty and thirsty on their way out West. In our Bible lesson today, we find Jesus hot and dusty and thirsty, too. He was a man, so He felt things like we do. But He was different from us, because He wasn’t just a man. He was also GOD! Jesus is special because He’s the only one ever who was God and man!

NOTE: You may want to put out only part of the dress-up area supplies today and add new items

each day. Check the Dramatic Play write-ups on the other days for suggestions.

Exploration Station: Name of Jesus Rubbing

MATERIALS

- White roll paper and tape or red-checked tablecloth
- Bandana
- Crayons in a small galvanized bucket
- Fun foam or cardstock letters that spell “Jesus”
- Copy paper

PRE-PREP

- Cover the table with white roll paper or the red-checked tablecloth. Peel the crayons so they can be used sideways. Put the crayons in the bucket on top of the bandana. Tape the five letters of the name “Jesus” onto a piece of cardstock so they will be in order.

DIRECTIONS

- Children put their copy paper over the letters and rub with the crayons to see the impression of the word “Jesus.”

TEACHING TIE-IN

We’re all given a name when we’re born. Jesus’s name is special. Jesus’s mommy didn’t pick the name. An angel from God told her what to name Him (Luke 1:31). The name *Jesus* means “The Lord saves.” He had a special reason for coming to earth—to save us!

Additional Discovery Center Ideas

- Bring in different sized cereal boxes that have been made to look like Western town storefronts. Add play horses and people, and the kids can play Old West town. Or use already made playsets that have to do with the Old West. Just make sure all pieces are chunky and sturdy.
- Set up a Bucket of Books center with children’s books about Jesus. Place the books in a galvanized metal tub or bucket. Place the tub on a blanket with some bed-rolls.
- Have some Flannelboard Fun, using a flannelboard and characters you’ve made from each day’s Bible lesson.

Lesson Time (10 minutes)

Part One: Woman at the Well (5 minutes)

Howdy, partners! Welcome to the Old West! I'm mighty glad to see y'all! My name is Miss (Mister) _____ and this is _____ (Teacher Two or Teaching Assistant). Here we are at this cabin right in the middle of gold country. We're gonna be mining for TRUE gold from God's special book, the Bible (pull it out of the basket or bag), and meetin' God's special Son, Jesus. He's worth more than all the silver and gold in the world!

Have your Bible and the Bold Claims poster with you as you share this account.

Let's get started and find out more about God's Son from this lesson about Jesus at a well. Does anyone know what a well is? People used to get their water from wells rather than from inside their houses, like we do. A well is a hole in the ground that gives water from way down in the ground. You let down a bucket and fill it with water, then pull on a rope to get the water back up. (Demonstrate this, and if time, let them try it. Make sure the kids are well supervised when around the rope.)

The Bible tells about a time when the most special person ever, Jesus, came to a well in the town of Samaria. Jesus was very tired, so He sat down by the well. Let's all pretend we are tired and hot and thirsty. (Do so.)

Along came a woman from Samaria to get some water at the well. Let's get up and pretend we're carrying a bucket to get water at the well. (Do so, then sit back down.)

Jesus and the lady began to talk. (Point to the Bold Claims poster.) The lady discovered Jesus was someone special. For instance, even though they were just meetin' for the first time, Jesus told her all about her past life!

The woman was amazed that Jesus knew her past. Give me a look of total amazement. (Do so.) Still, she didn't realize yet how special Jesus was. She told Jesus she knew that God (the Messiah) was comin', and when He came, He would tell her all things. Whisper to your neighbor, "God is coming!" (Do so.)

Jesus told her that He was God from heaven. He wasn't just a person, like everyone else. He was GOD! Let's jump up and down and shout, "Jesus is GOD!" three times. (Do so.)

The woman was so excited, she left her water pot and ran to tell everyone what Jesus had said to her. Let's run around and act excited. (Do so, then sit down.)

She brought many more people to meet Jesus, and they also believed Jesus was God. Let's shout again, "Jesus is GOD!" (Do so.)

Nobody else is GOD. I'm not God! You're not God! Jesus is special because He's not only a person, He's also God at the same time! He can do things no person can do. For instance, He made the whole world and the animals, plants, and people. No one else can make plants and animals and people out of nothing! Let's act like a cow (a horse, a pig, etc.) to remind us of some of the animals He made. (Do so.)

- Bible (or children's picture Bible)
- Old West costumes for teachers
- Basket or bag to put Bible in
- "Well" supplies (large appliance box, marker, rope, cooler or bowl of water, small bucket, tarp or thick towel)
- Bold Claims poster (Teacher Resource Pack)

PRE-PREP

1. Make the well by drawing stones on the sides of the appliance box with the marker, placing the bowl or cooler of water down in the well, and attaching the rope (approximately 7 feet) to the small bucket. You may want to place the bowl of water on a tarp or thick towel to catch spills, or just pretend there's water.



- ★ Four chairs placed in a square with the seats facing out can also serve as a makeshift well.
- ★ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.
- ★ If working as co-teachers rather than as a lead teacher and an assistant, decide which parts of the lesson each of you will be responsible for teaching.

Day 1

★ Every day, one or more visuals are suggested to put into an old-fashioned basket (picnic basket with a lid), or bag (muslin or burlap). Pull these out slowly and rather dramatically to build anticipation of what it is. Feel free to add other visuals to the lessons as you see fit.

- Boy or girl puppet
- 2 copies of today's puppet script (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Clipboard
- Puppet-sized cape, crown, or wand
- Daily overview poster (Teacher Resource Pack)
- Optional: Today's coin, 1 per child

PRE-PREP

1. Tape one script inside the puppet stage, and attach the other to a clipboard for reference.

★ The puppet can be dressed with Old West clothing (a mini hat and bandana, a flannel shirt, etc.) or a small VBS T-shirt. To make a small T-shirt, photocopy, cut out, and laminate a color copy of the logo and tape it to a baby-sized T-shirt.

Because He's God, He's also perfect. Nobody else has ever been perfect. That means He always obeyed God and He never did anything wrong, like we do. Jesus is special! The rest of this week we'll be checking out His life and seeing how special Jesus really is.

Part Two: Puppet Pal—A Special Meeting (5 minutes)

Each day, the puppet pal will reinforce the lesson the kids just heard. It is a quick but important part of the day. If you don't have a teaching assistant, enlist someone (a class leader or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. The puppet should enter from the cabin window. If alone, have the puppet come up from an old trunk or suitcase that has the lid flipped up.

The puppet (Dakota) can be a boy or girl. Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly, and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis, or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning or turning its head or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is "thinking," put the puppet's hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!) And make sure the puppet script is taped up so it's easy to see and read, and the teacher has hers on a clipboard for reference.

Dakota: Enter wearing a cape or crown, or holding a wand. Act excited.

Teacher: Hi there, Dakota. What are you up to?

Dakota: I heard you talk about someone special, so I thought I'd dress up like someone special.

Teacher: Who's that?

Dakota: I'm pretending to be a king (or queen, if your puppet is a girl). Wouldn't that be a thrill to be a king?

Teacher: Perhaps it would.

Dakota: It would be a thrill to even MEET a king! Sigh dramatically. I'd be on my best behavior!

Teacher: Turn to the audience. I'd like to see that!

Dakota: Excitedly. Or how about meeting a famous football player? Or a famous singer? Sing a couple notes dramatically. Oh, I would love that! They are special people.

Teacher: You know, Dakota, they may be famous, but I know someone who is much more special than any football player or famous singer.

Dakota: You've got to be kidding. You know someone more special than a famous person?

Teacher: I sure do. This person is even more special than a king or queen.

Dakota: Who is it?

Teacher: His name is Jesus.

Dakota: Jesus must really be something to be more special than a king or queen!

Teacher: He is. He's not just a person, like those people. He's GOD! There's no one like Jesus.

Dakota: Wow! I want to hear more about Jesus.

Teacher: You will, Dakota. God loved us and sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. We'll be hearing much more about Him the rest of the week.

Dakota: Goody! Well, I'd better get on with my pretending. See you later!

Teacher: See you later, your Royal Majesty. *Bow.* Boys and girls, while Dakota takes off, let's sing a song about Jesus.

Each day at this point, the older VBS kids will practice the daily phrase (Gem to Treasure). Check out your daily overview posters for these phrases. Also, they will be receiving a coin with the phrase on it. You may or may not want to give the coins to Toddlers. They won't necessarily know the phrase, but if they're old enough for it to be safe for them, they may enjoy receiving the coin. Judge according to the age of your children and your situation.

Song Time (5 minutes)

Song One: Jesus at the Well

(sung to *The Farmer in the Dell*)

Verse One

Jesus at the well
Jesus at the well
Hi-ho, the derry-o
Jesus at the well

Verse Two

He talks to the gal
He talks to the gal
Hi-ho, the derry-o
He talks to the gal

Verse Three

The gal is amazed
The gal is amazed
Hi-ho, the derry-o
The gal is amazed

Verse Four

He tells her He is God
He tells her He is God
Hi-ho, the derry-o
He tells her He is God

Verse Five

She goes and gets her friends
She goes and gets her friends
Hi-ho, the derry-o
She goes and gets her friends

Verse Six

Her friends believe, too
Her friends believe, too
Hi-ho, the derry-o
Her friends believe, too

Day 1

Song Two: Oh, God's Son

(sung to *Oh, My Darling Clementine*)

Verse One

Oh, God's Son, Oh, God's Son
Oh, God's Son is Jesus Christ

Oh, God's Son, Oh, God's Son
Oh, God's Son is Jesus Christ

Additional verses will be added to this song each day.

Additional Song Ideas: *Jesus Loves Me; Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Memory Verse/Review Time (5 minutes)

- Optional: Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2**
- Memory verse poster (Teacher Resource Pack)**

★ The back page of each day's student page parallels this section. The front page of the student page provides a review of the day's teaching.

Complete one or more of the following ideas in class. These are also on the Toddler Student pages and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time.

Supplies for this section are not included in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose, so decide what you will do and add them to your supply list accordingly.

Part One: Precious Gold Memory Verse

Today's Verse: God loved us and sent His Son (1 John 4:10).

Challenge: Say the verse together several times, using today's memory verse poster as a reference, then get ready to gallop! Start at one side of the room and gallop across the room, saying the verse as you go.

Part Two: Go and Do

1. **Act out the Woman at the Well Bible account you heard today.**
2. **Jesus is our Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). An adult or teacher can write the name JESUS on a rock with a permanent marker. The children can decorate the rock and keep it as a reminder. (It shouldn't be too big of a rock for safety's sake!)**
3. **One way Jesus is unique is He is the Creator (Colossians 1:15–17). Talk about or draw different things Jesus created.**
4. **Make up a song with today's Bible verse.**

NOTE: If you purchased the student pages, have the team leaders pass them out at the end of the day to the parents or caretakers.