

## Third Sunday of Lent

### The woman at the well

#### INTRODUCTION

Today we will hear about a meeting between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. The Samaritans came from a place called Samaria. The Jews from Galilee and Judea hated them because the Samaritans had built a temple for God on Mount Gerizim, in their own country, and refused to worship at the temple in Jerusalem.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Together sing the Candle Song.

#### SORRY

Encourage the children to close their eyes and make the words of this prayer their own:

Lord, sometimes we make mistakes  
and forget the things you tell us.

If we have not always been kind toward others,  
we are sorry.

If we have not always been honest or fair,  
we are sorry.

Send your spirit to fill us with your love  
and help us to be good.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (JOHN 4:6-11, 13-19, 28-29, 39-42)

Jesus had been walking all morning and was tired and thirsty. He stopped to rest beside a well when a Samaritan woman came to fill her water jug at the well.

Jesus asked her, "Will you give me a drink?" The woman was very surprised because the Jews and Samaritans hated one another and rarely spoke. "Surely, sir, you are a Jew. Why should I share my water with you?" Jesus said, "If you knew me, it would be you asking me for a drink, for I would give you the water of life."

The woman was puzzled, "The well is deep and you have no bucket, so how could you reach this 'living water'?" Jesus said, "When you drink the water from this well, your thirst always returns.

Anyone who drinks the water that I can give will never be thirsty again. This water will become a spring inside them and fill them with eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, share this water with me." Then Jesus told the woman many things about herself that no other person knew, and she believed that he was truly the son of God. When she told the people of the town what had happened by the well, they, too, came to believe that this man was the son of God.

#### DISCUSSION

Help the children to imagine what a difference it would make to our lives today, if we had to collect water from a well. For example, when:

- washing our clothes
- having a bath
- filling a swimming pool
- watering the garden.

Water is a symbol or sign of life. Without it everything would die.

Jesus called the water that he could give, the "water of life." What do you think he meant? The water he was describing was the life which God gives. This life, or grace, is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. He fills us with his love and goodness so that we never have to thirst for God. He is the well of God's life in us, from which the living water flows.

#### ACTIVITY

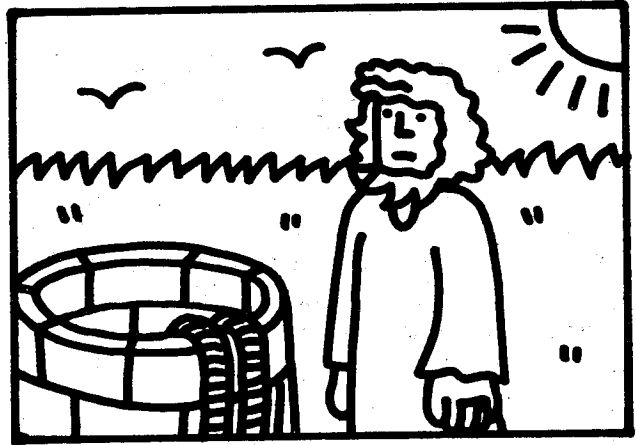
Color the story of "The Woman at the Well," then cut out the pages and staple them together to make an individual storybook for each child.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

We thank you, Jesus,  
for the blessing of water;  
For being able to turn on a tap  
and know that it will flow;  
For the rain, and the rivers,  
and the mighty oceans.  
We thank you for the "water of life,"  
poured out and shared with us  
at our baptism,  
so that we can have everlasting life.

# The Woman at The Well



Jesus was tired and thirsty so he stopped at the well.



He asked a Samaritan woman for a drink.



Jesus said "I can give you living water."



"Will you share this living water with me?" she asked.



The woman and her friends believed that Jesus was the Son of God.