

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



3rd Sunday of Lent

12 March 2023 – Year A

***“The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.”***

### Something to Think About

What does it mean to ‘thirst’ for something? Sometimes we thirst for rest, for God, for a friend.

### The Story

In this story Jesus meets a woman who other people avoided. Jesus listens to her as an understanding friend and tells her about the ways in which she can quench her thirst for God. The woman believes, and then shares the Good News with others.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**4:5-15, 19-26, 39, 40-42**

On his way to Galilee, Jesus came to the town of Sychar. It was near the field that Jacob had long ago given to his son Joseph. The well that Jacob had dug was still there, and Jesus sat down beside it because he was tired from travelling. It was noon, and after Jesus' disciples had gone into town to buy some food, a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus asked her, "Would you please give me a drink of water?" "You are a Jew," she replied, "and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans won't have anything to do with each other?"

Jesus answered, "You don't know what God wants to give you, and you don't know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would ask him for the water that gives life." "Sir," the woman said, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this life-giving water? Our ancestor Jacob dug this well for us, and his family and animals got water from it. Are you greater than Jacob?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life." The woman replied, "Sir, please give me a drink of that water! Then I won't get thirsty and have to come to this well again." She also told him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship."

Jesus said to her: "Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship God either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us God will save the world. But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth." The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

"I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now." A lot of Samaritans in that town put their faith in Jesus. They came and asked him to stay in their town, and he stayed on for two days. Many more Samaritans put their faith in Jesus because of what they heard him say. They told the woman, "We no longer have faith in Jesus just because of what you told us. We have heard him ourselves, and we are certain that he is the Saviour of the world!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Video** Click to watch the video: [Jesus and the Samaritan Woman](#)

## Group Discussion

This gospel passage highlights the humanity of Jesus - he was hot, tired and thirsty yet he found time to sit and listen to the woman. Is there someone in your family or class or community who needs a 'listening ear'. How could you be a kind and patient listener to someone this week?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world.

*Reader 1:* We pray that our leaders will be people of faith and hope. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for farmers who are waiting for rain. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who thirst for God. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray that we might listen patiently to others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will treat all people with kindness. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Lord Jesus,  
Help us to listen deeply to your word  
and to live as followers of Jesus. Help us  
to treat everyone with respect.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

### Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

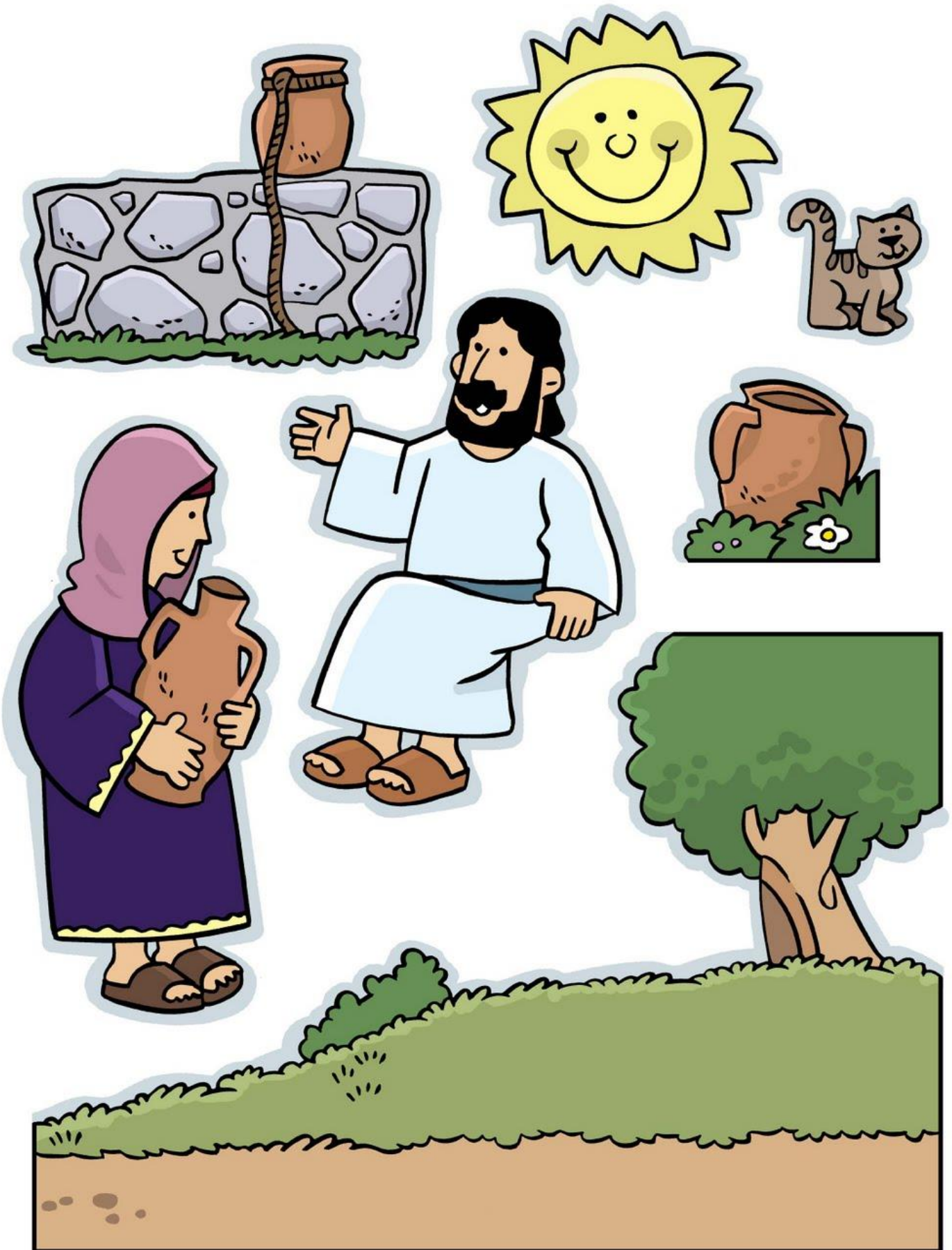
*You will need:* template for each child, plain white paper, glue, scissors, coloured markers.

1. Invite children to cut out the coloured shapes. Adult assistance may be needed.
2. Children glue the figures onto a blank sheet of paper to create the scene.
3. The colouring in on the second page of the template will give an idea of where each piece might go. Those who finish early can move on to the colouring in page.



# Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Cut and Paste



# Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Add colour!



NAME FIVE THINGS THAT NEED WATER TO GROW

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# LIVING WATER

**THE WATER JESUS GIVES IS LIKE A FLOWING FOUNTAIN.  
IT NEVER DRIES UP. IT KEEPS ON GIVING US NEW LIFE.**