
GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

SERIES: A NEW LIFE

Join us throughout the month of March as we learn stories about how Jesus Christ offers NEW LIFE in Himself when we accept Him into our hearts! We will be reading through the books of Luke and John.

REMEMBER VERSE

PSALM 139:23-24—Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

SCHEDULE

All Services

- 0:00—0:35 Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
- 0:35—0:40 Transition to Large Group
- 0:40—1:00 Large Group (B100)
- 1:00—1:05 Transition to Small Group
- 1:05—1:15 Bless and Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God's Plan Is Best

Peter

CURRENT WEEK: God Knows Everything

Woman at the Well

WEEK 3: Jesus Seeks and Saves

Zacchaeus

WEEK 4: Remember & Celebrate

Feast: Trumpets

EQUIP

In John 4, we see Jesus' interaction with a Samaritan woman. Jesus reveals to the woman that He knows all about her life, including the sins she's committed—because He is God, and He knows everything. But this wasn't an ordinary conversation; in fact, people would have considered it scandalous, because Jews and Samaritans were enemies. How did this conflict begin?

The northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C. Assyria handled their conquered peoples by scattering them across the empire and mixing them with other conquered peoples. This lessened the odds of any potential uprisings. Under these circumstances, the Israelites intermixed and intermarried with other people groups. The result: a mixed-race people later called the Samaritans.

But the Babylonians handled their conquered peoples differently. When the southern kingdom of Judah was conquered in 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar took them as a whole people into captivity, where the children of their nobles (who were the future leaders) were retrained to think, eat, and worship like Babylonians.

After being allowed to return to their land following the Babylonian captivity, the Jews became fanatical about keeping their racial lines pure, viewing this as the main reason God had temporarily taken their land from them—namely, the idolatry that resulted from intermarrying with other races. This became more than a fiercely held passion for them.

Thus, in Jesus' day, when travelling from Judah up to Galilee, Jews wouldn't take the direct route, through Samaria. Instead, they would cross the Jordan River, travel north, then re-cross the river—all to avoid even the slightest contact with the hated half-breed Samaritans. In this shocking conversation that Jesus initiated with a Samaritan woman—a conversation that saved a whole town of Samaritans—we can see so clearly that God indeed knows everything.

ENCOURAGE

Romans 5:6–8 says, "At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

This is one of the great mysteries of our faith, and it still draws new believers to Christ. Believers and nonbelievers continually ask: Why would Christ, the Son of God, choose to die for us while we were still sinners?

Take a deep breath and spend some time praising God for His undeserved grace and love. Take another deep breath and spend some time dwelling on the fact that God knows everything about you. He loves you so much, He chose to die for you so you can be in a holy relationship with Him. Ask God to make this amazing truth a reality in the hearts of your children this week. Pray that they would be overwhelmed by the knowledge of how much God loves them.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What are three things you know about your Small Group Leader or Storyteller?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

God knows everything. Everything. And, He loves us. No matter what we've done, no matter how we feel about ourselves, God loves us! He knows everything, and He draws us close so that we may have new life through Him.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Well Template. Have them color each piece however they want. Then, have them cut out each piece. Then, they will glue each end of the brick strip together to form the circular structure of the well. With the two lined rectangle pieces, they will fold and glue them together accordion style. Then have them take the rectangle with the verse and fold along the solid lines in the middle. This will be the roof of the well. Take the two accordion folded pieces and glue a small part of it on the inside of the well. Fold a small section at the top about a half inch. Then glue the folded pieces under the flat portion of the roof to complete the well.

SUPPLIES:

- Well Template
- Coloring supplies
- Glue

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

Jesus knew everything about the Samaritan woman, and He wanted a relationship with her so He could redeem her past and bring freedom to her life.

- Why didn't the Israelites want to travel through Samaria? *John 4:9*
- Why wasn't Jesus supposed to talk to the woman at the well? *John 4:9, 27*
- What did Jesus reveal to her? *John 4:25-26*
- What did the woman do when she realized who Jesus was? *John 4:28-29*
- How did Jesus draw the Samaritan woman into relationship with Him?
- When Jesus stayed in Samaria to teach, how did the people respond? *John 4:40-41*
- How did the Samaritan woman play a part in The Big God Story? *John 4:28-30, 39-42*
- How can you know that Jesus knows everything about you? *Psalms 139:1-6, 23-24*
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows you and loves you?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

1 JOHN 3:19-20 – This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ... we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

BLESSING: May you rest in the peace of being known by your Heavenly Father. May you tell others the good news of Jesus.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- Samaria Map image
- Worship Map image
- Well image

STORYTELLING

I'm going to tell you two things that are true about me and one thing that's true about someone else. Try to guess which is which. *In random order, tell two truths—or interesting facts—about yourself and one truth about someone you know. Have kids vote for which fact isn't true about you.* Do you know who would win this game every time? God! He knows everything about everything, and that includes us. Before we go any further, let's pray and ask God to teach us today. *Lead kids in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

This week in The Big God Story, we join Jesus traveling from Judea to Galilee with His disciples. He could have taken a few different ways. The longer ways were along the coast and along the east side of the Jordan River. *Samaria Map image.* The short way to go was straight through Samaria. Which way would you choose? *Invite responses.* That's a good idea! But there's a problem.

The Samaritans and Israelites were in a big fight that had gone on for hundreds of years. *Divide room in half. Have a volunteer from one side stand up front and hold the "Samaritans" sign while a volunteer from the other side holds the "Israelites" sign.* One of their biggest fights was about where to worship God. *Worship Map image. Have the kids on each side of the room call out their choices.* Because of this and other reasons, the Israelites and the Samaritans stayed away from each other, even going out of the way and traveling for a longer time just to avoid their enemies. *Have volunteers return to seats.*

Did Jesus avoid Samaria? No! Jesus and His disciples went straight through it. They walked through Samaria's hot, dry, and dusty desert. How do you think they felt after that long journey? *Invite responses.* Jesus and His disciples came to a small town in Samaria and while the disciples went to buy food, Jesus sat down beside a well. *Well image.* Usually people got water from the well during the cool of the day, in the morning or at sundown, but it was the middle of the day, the hottest time of the day, so few people were around. But on this day, a Samaritan woman came to the well. *Have kids turn in Bibles to John 4:7-8 and follow along as you read.*

Let's pause for a minute. What do we know about this woman so far? *Invite answers and write them on name tags—for example, "Woman" or "Samaritan." Stick tags to stick figure woman.* What would she have known about Jesus? *Again, write answers on name tags—for example, "Man" or "Jew." Stick tags to Jesus figure.* She was surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink. *Ask a volunteer to read John 4:9 while everyone follows along.* Jews didn't talk

to Samaritans, and, in that day, a man would never talk to a woman unless they were related.

Let's see what Jesus said. *Read John 4:10.* Jesus invited her to know Him! Jesus told her that if she knew Him, she would know His generous heart and the salvation He offers. *On a name tag, write a description of Jesus, such as "Gift of God" or "Giver of Living Water." Stick tag to Jesus figure. Read verses 13-15.* What does this tell us about Jesus? *Record answers on name tags and stick to Jesus figure. Examples: "Fills us up" or "Offers eternal life."* Then Jesus surprised her and told her something no ordinary person would have known about her. *Read John 4:16-18.* *On a few name tags, write descriptors of woman, such as "Not married," "Five husbands," or "Sin." Stick to woman figure.* You see, Jesus knew everything about her. He knew about the sin in her life. He loved her and wanted to redeem every part. *Write "All-knowing" on name tag and stick to Jesus figure.*

Amazed by how much Jesus knew about her, the woman responded. *Ask a volunteer to read vv. 25-26 while everyone follows along.* Right there, on that hot day, sitting by a well, Jesus revealed to the woman who He really is. He chose to make Himself known to her. And the woman at the well realized that she wasn't talking to just any Jewish man or teacher, but to the Messiah—the Redeemer—the One for whom she and all the people of Israel had waited for, for thousands of years! *Write "Waiting for the Messiah" on name tag for woman. Write "The Messiah" on name tag for Jesus.*

The woman was so excited that she left her water jar and ran into town, all the while telling everyone about Jesus. *Read v. 29.* The Bible says that many other people believed because of what the woman told them. And Jesus stayed in Samaria to teach the people. *Read vv. 41-42. Write "Savior of the World" and stick to Jesus figure.*

Jesus knew everything about the woman at the well and loved her. She was a Samaritan woman living in sin. But Jesus spent time with her, spoke with her, created a relationship with her, and loved her. Because of this, the woman played her part in The Big God Story by telling others about her encounter with Jesus—the Messiah.

Jesus knows everything. Everything about the world, how it was made, what's happening in current events, the number of grains of sand on the beach, what we are thinking, and how we feel. He knows everything about everything—including us. No one knows us better than God, and no one loves us more! He knows your past, your sin, and your struggles, and He loves you so much that He wants to heal and redeem every part of your life. God knows us, and we can know Him too. He makes Himself known to us so we can be in relationship with Him.