

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 Judaea 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

Listen to this reading written by a wise man called Micah (*cf Micah 6:8-9*):

God our Father has told us what we must do: be fair and honest in all that we do and say, be loving and caring towards others. If we do this, then our friendship with God will last forever.

Then encourage the children to close their eyes and make the words of this next prayer their own: Lord, sometimes we make mistakes, and forget the things you tell us.

If we have not always been kind towards 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 to help us to be good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1: *Share your word with us.*

GOSPEL (*cf 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 called Jacob's 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

Why was the woman surprised that Jesus had spoken to her? – The woman was a Samaritan and Jesus a Jew, but Jesus had come to share his message with everyone, not just the Jewish people.

When Jesus lived there were no taps or water pipelines, so where did the people get their water from?

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

Photocopy the story of 'The Woman at the Well'. The pages can be coloured and stapled 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, and throughout our lives, so that we can have everlasting life.