

## The Gospel of John John 4

**Memory Verse:** *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:24 ESV).

### Background Helps:

This week we complete the first year of Jesus’ ministry, as recorded by John. In previous weeks we covered his ministry in Perea, east of the Jordan River (John 1:19-51), in Galilee (2:1-12), and in Judea (2:13–4:3). Now the Lord ministers to the people of Samaria (4:4-42) and then completes his journey back to Galilee, specifically to the town of Cana, where he had performed his first miracle (cf. 2:1-11 and 4:46-54). Review these events on a Bible map of the Holy Land, or turn your room into a map and lead your students on a “tour of the Holy Land,” as you conduct your review (especially for kids!).

### Lesson Helps:

John 4 includes two incidents: (1) Jesus’ conversation with the woman of Samaria and its impact (4:4-42) and (2) the healing of the official’s son and its impact (4:46-54). You could write a lesson aim that incorporates both of these stories, or write a lesson aim that focuses on one or the other episode. Following this second approach:

1. Lesson aim on John 4:4-42: My students will learn about Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman and its impact, so that (1) they will believe in Jesus as their Savior and/or (2) they will follow Christ’s example of personal evangelism. Here are some miscellaneous ideas for your lesson:
  - Contact two students ahead of time and prepare them to reenact the dialogue between Jesus and the woman. Then discuss it in class.
  - Prepare two students ahead of time to role play a contemporary spiritual conversation between a believer and an unbeliever, modeled generally on the conversation between Jesus and the woman, and then discuss it.
  - Give opportunity for testimonies of any recent witnessing opportunities.
  - Use the questions in the Home Bible Reading Schedule for this week.
  - Creatively use “water” in class to illustrate the spiritual point Jesus makes to the woman in John 4:7-15. (For example, provide an ice cold bottle of water for each class member.)
  - Work on the memory verse in class when you come to John 4:24 in the lesson.
  - Creatively use a “snack” in class to illustrate the spiritual point Jesus makes to his disciples in John 4:31-34.
  - Bring some fresh produce from your garden (or the store!) to illustrate Jesus’ spiritual point to his disciples in John 4:35-38.
  - Ask someone ahead of time to share his/her personal salvation testimony with the class (see John 4:28-30, 39-42).

- Notice that the subject of baptism comes up again 4:1-3. Challenge your students, “Have any of you decided to be baptized since last week’s lesson (John 3:22-26)?”
2. Lesson aim on John 4:46-54: My students will learn about Jesus’ healing of the official’s son, so that they will grow in their faith. See Saturday’s question on the Home Bible Reading Schedule. Compare this story with the story of Thomas in John 20:24-29 and the stated purpose of the Gospel of John in 20:30-31. The miracle in 4:46-54 is one of the signs recorded by John to draw us to faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, so that we (and our family, v. 53) might have eternal life. Since this story involves the sickness and healing of this father’s son, it might be of particular interest to children and teens on the one hand and to parents on the other.

**Home Assignment:**

 Read: John 5

 Memorize: John 5:24

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