

# Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW015)

## Encountering Jesus (3) Samaritan woman

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## Encountering Jesus

### (3) Samaritan woman

#### Service Aim:

To teach that Jesus showed the Samaritan woman **grace** and He offered to satisfy her deep spiritual thirst with the **gift** of living water. He does the same with us too.

The service is around 30-40mins long.

#### Biblical Reference(s):

John 4:1-30

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#### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	Physical thirst and the water that satisfies it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all have a spiritual thirst</li> <li>• Different ways of satisfying spiritual thirst</li> </ul>
Bible Reading:	John 4:1-15
Talk 1:	3 reasons why it was surprising that Jesus spoke to the woman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus showed <b>Grace</b></li> </ul>
Song:	<u>Song worshipping Jesus – the giver of Grace</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk 2:	Demonstration of grace (with wrapped gift) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus offered the woman the <b>Gift</b> of living water to satisfy her</li> <li>• Jesus offers us the same gift</li> </ul>
Testimony:	Someone shares how a relationship with Jesus has satisfied them
Response:	Confession with Jeremiah 2:13. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to receive the gift Jesus offers (with glasses of water)</li> </ul>
Song:	<u>Song about thirst for Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Prayers:	Praying for <b>Grace</b> to be like Jesus in our relationships Praying for help to share the <b>Gift</b> we have been given with others
Lord's Prayer:	
Summary:	Jesus showed the Samaritan woman <b>Grace</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus offered her the <b>gift</b> of a new life in God to satisfy her spiritual thirst.</li> <li>• Jesus offers us the same today.</li> </ul>
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is “The encounter that a Samaritan woman had with Jesus by a well outside the town of Sychar.”

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*  
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,  
**Make us aware of Your presence today.**

**Help us Lord to worship you,  
To listen to your Word,  
And to pray in faith,  
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.  
Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

## Warm up:

For the “warm up” you will need a glass filled with water and a couple of empty glasses. You will also need 4 other glasses in which you have put the following items:

- 1) some coins and bank notes
- 2) a small mirror
- 3) a certificate of achievement rolled up (for example an exam certificate)
- 4) a couple of photographs

I wonder if anyone here is thirsty today.

- If you are thirsty, I have something that will satisfy your thirst....
- Come and have a drink of water. *(Receive volunteers. Pour them out a glass of water from the jug and they drink it. You might need to brief a volunteer beforehand.)*

Has that water satisfied your thirst? *(Volunteer(s) replies “yes”)*

- Great.....we all know that when we are thirsty, a glass of water is just what we need don't we? *(Send volunteers back to their seats)*

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<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 9780715123263  
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Some of us today might be physically thirsty, but there is one thirst that we all have.

- I am going to call it a **spiritual thirst**.

We have probably all felt this thirst at some point in our lives.

- It is like deep down inside our hearts, we long for something in life that will give us meaning.....that will satisfy us completely.

And because we have this spiritual thirst, we all try to satisfy it in a variety of ways, like we satisfy a physical thirst with a glass of water.

Some people try to satisfy their thirst with **what they own**, *(Hold up glass 1)*

- In this glass we have some money to remind us of that.

Other people try to satisfy their spiritual thirst with **how they look**, *(Hold up glass 2)*

- In this glass we have a mirror to remind us of that.

Other people try to satisfy their spiritual thirst with **what they achieve**, *(Hold up glass 3)*

- In this glass we have a certificate to remind us of that.

Other people try to satisfy their spiritual thirst with **who they know**,

- looking to other people to satisfy their deepest needs. *(Hold up glass 4)*
- In this glass we have a couple of photos to remind us of that.

The problem is that none of these things, although they can be good things, can satisfy our deep spiritual thirst.

When we try and “drink” from:

- What we own, *(Hold up glass 1)*
- How we look, *(Hold up glass 2)*
- What we achieve *(Hold up glass 3)* and
- Who we know, *(Hold up glass 4)*

we will always end up spiritually thirsty.

Our spiritual thirst can only be satisfied in one way and that is through having a **life-giving relationship with Jesus**.

Today we are going to hear a story about how Jesus met a woman who had tried to satisfy her spiritual thirst with **who she knew**.

- Let’s hear what happened.

## Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is John 4:1-15 and can be read by a child, young person or adult. While the reading is read, you could project pictures of it onto a screen<sup>2</sup>. Another way to present the story is by showing a video of John 4:1-15<sup>3</sup>

## Talk1:

You need 3 pieces of card on which you write the following: 1) Hated, 2) Culture, 3) Judged and one much larger piece of card on which you write the word GRACE

<sup>2</sup> You can find free pictures to project of Bible stories by going to [www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org) and putting “Samaritan woman” into the search bar.

<sup>3</sup> You can find the video at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) by putting “gospel of John chapter 4” into the search bar.

You also need the map of Israel at the time of Jesus which you can find in Appendix 2.

In the story we have just heard, it might not seem surprising to us that Jesus started a conversation with a lady at a well.

- But in first century Samaria what Jesus did was very surprising for all sorts of reasons, and I am going to mention three of them today.

1) The first reason was that Jesus was a Jew and the woman was a Samaritan.

- For over 400 years the Jews and Samaritans had absolutely **hated** each other. (*Hold up the word HATED*)
- Have you ever hated someone so much that you would never ever want to talk to them?
- I hope not, but that's the sort of hating that the Jews felt towards the Samaritans.

In fact, most Jews hated the Samaritans so much that they wouldn't even travel through Samaria when they travelled between Galilee and Judaea (*Show map in Appendix 2*)

- They would rather take a massive detour instead.
- For Jesus to start up a friendly conversation with the Samaritan woman would have been a big shock for not only the woman but also for the disciples when they returned from town and saw what Jesus was doing. (John 4:27)

Instead of hating the woman, Jesus showed her love,

- undeserved love.....which the Bible calls **grace**. (*Hold up the word GRACE*)

2) The second reason why Jesus' conversation with the woman was surprising was that Jesus was a Rabbi – a holy man and the Samaritan was a woman.

- Rabbis didn't speak to women in public.
- There was like a **culture** barrier between them. (*Hold up the word CULTURE*)
- Have you ever not spoken to someone because they look different from you or because they come from another country?

Instead of keeping to the culture barrier, Jesus broke it down, and talked to the woman, showing her undeserved love...

- showing her **grace**. (*Hold up the word GRACE*)

3) The third reason why Jesus' conversation with the woman was surprising was that the woman was not of good character.

- The normal time to have visited the well to collect water would have been in the cooler times of day like the early morning or the late afternoon.
- This woman came at midday, the hottest time of day when she was least likely to meet anyone and be **judged** by other people. (*Hold up the word JUDGED*)
- Have you ever not spoken to someone because you know that they have done something wrong and you would rather judge them?

Jesus knew all about the woman's immoral lifestyle, which we discover later in the story.

- Although, because He is God, Jesus had the right to judge her, He didn't; but offered her the gift of living water.

Jesus showed the woman undeserved love..... **grace**. *(Hold up the word GRACE)*

So, we can see that this conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman was a big deal.

- Jesus broke down all sorts of barriers in order to reach out to someone with a messed-up life,
- showing them undeserved love.... showing them **grace**.

No wonder the woman was able to listen to what Jesus had to offer her;

- His **gift** of living water.

Jesus treats people today in exactly the same way as He did all those years ago.

- He reaches out to each one of us with undeserved love, with **grace**.

I wonder if we treat other people with the same grace that we have received from Jesus, or whether we let barriers of hate, culture or judging get in the way.

- Let's worship Him in song again.

### **Song:**

Songs worshipping Jesus - the giver of Grace as per Appendix 1.

### **Talk 2:**

You need a large tin of sweets or chocolates and the jug of water and all of the glasses from the earlier Warm-up.

Today I am feeling rather generous. *(Hold up tin of sweets or chocolates)*

- And I'm going to give this tin of chocolates to you. *(Hand over gift to someone who would be amazed to receive such an unexpected gift)*
- You weren't expecting that were you?

Some of you may be wondering why I gave this gift to N

- Have they done something to earn it?
- Is it their birthday?

Well, it is neither of those things.

- What I am doing is giving you a picture of **grace**.
- Giving a gift that is completely unexpected and unearned, just because I want to give it.

In our story today Jesus offered the Samaritan woman an unexpected and unearned gift.

- It wasn't a tin of sweets, but something much better and something that she really needed.
- He offered her the gift of living water.

When Jesus was talking about living water, He wasn't talking about water that comes out of a tap or water that comes from a mountain stream. *(Hold up glass of water)*

- He was using picture language to describe the gift of new life that God offers people, which is based upon a life-giving relationship with Him.

Jesus knew that this Samaritan woman was spiritually thirsty.

- He knew that she had tried to satisfy that spiritual thirst with relationships. (*Hold up glass 4*)
- He also knew that the only way she would find deep satisfaction in life would be through receiving the gift of new life that God wanted to give her.
- So, while the woman was filling up her water bucket from the well, Jesus offered her this gift.

Unlike the water from the well that must be drawn up by human effort,

- the new life that Jesus offered her is a gift.
- It cannot be earned.

Unlike the water from the well that was a bit stale because it just sat there,

- the new life that Jesus offered her is refreshing.

Unlike the water from the well that satisfies thirst for a short time,

- the new life that Jesus offered her satisfies eternally.

As a result of this conversation, the woman was so excited that she left her bucket and went rushing into her hometown to tell people all about Jesus.

Jesus is still offering His gift of living water today,

- His gift of a new life in God,
- where we can know God as our Father and ourselves as dearly loved children.

I wonder if you have received this wonderful gift yet that satisfies your deep spiritual thirst, or whether you are still trying to satisfy your thirst with:

- What you own, (*Hold up glass 1*)
- How you look, (*Hold up glass 2*)
- What you achieve (*Hold up glass 3*) or with
- Who you know (*Hold up glass 4*).

## Testimony

At this point in the service, you might like to invite someone to give a testimony about how their relationship with God has satisfied their spiritual thirst.

## Response:

You need enough “shot”<sup>4</sup> glasses filled with water for every person to have one.

We have an opportunity now to respond to Jesus’ offer of new life.

- Some of you will have already received His gift, whereas others of you may know that you are spiritually thirsty.
- In order to receive Jesus’ gift, we need to lay down the other ways we have tried to satisfy our spiritual thirst in ways apart from God.

God says to us through the prophet Jeremiah:

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<sup>4</sup> You can purchase Disposable Stacking Plastic Shot Glasses (30ml) from Party Plastics at [www.partyplastics.co.uk](http://www.partyplastics.co.uk)



*“You, my people, have sinned in two ways—you have rejected me, the source of life-giving water, and you’ve tried to collect water in cracked and leaking pits dug in the ground.”*

Let’s take a moment to think about the ways we have rejected God and chosen other things or other ways to satisfy our spiritual thirst. PAUSE

- We are going to pass around a glass of water for each of you now as a symbol of the new life that Jesus offers us.
- Don’t drink it until I tell you to. *(Pass around glasses of water)*

Please join me as I pray this prayer; praying as much as you choose to.

**Father God,**

**Thank you that you have created us.**

**Thank you that you made us to be your sons and daughters.**

**Please forgive us when we have turned away from you.**

**Please forgive us when we have tried to satisfy our spiritual thirst with other things and in other ways.**

**Thank you that you offer us the gift of new life through Jesus.**

**Please help us to receive that gift now as we turn back to you.**

**Amen.**

At this point, invite people to drink the water as a symbol showing that they are choosing to receive God’s gift of life. You may also choose to pray that people will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **Song:**

Song about thirst for Jesus as per Appendix 1.

### **Prayers:**

You may like to keep the prayers fairly short and focussed upon the following 2 areas:

- 1) Praying for **grace** to be like Jesus in our relationships
  - a. At home
  - b. At school, college, work
  - c. Wherever we are
- 2) Praying for help to share the **gift** of new life we have been given with others.
  - a. At home
  - b. At school, college, work
  - c. Wherever we are.

### **Lord’s Prayer:**

End by saying the Lord’s Prayer together.

### **Summary:**

You could summarize the teaching points of the service as follows:

One day, a Samaritan woman had her life changed by Jesus.

- Jesus broke through the barriers of hate, culture and judgmentalism to show her **grace**.
- Jesus offered her the **gift** of a new life in God to satisfy her spiritual thirst.
- Jesus offers us the same today.



**Final Song:**

Final song as per Appendix 1.

**Blessing:**

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**[Notices:** If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

### i) Opening songs. Ideas include:

- Come, let us worship the King of Kings (Nathan Fellingham © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- Defender of this heart (Ben Cantelon © 2007 Thankyou Music)
- God is good (Becky Drake, Nick J. Drake © Integrity Music Europe)
- Our God saves (Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown © 2007 Integrity's Hosanna Music)

### ii) Song worshipping Jesus – the giver of grace. Ideas include:

- Far above all other loves (David Fellingham © 1997 Thankyou Music)
- Forever reign (Reuben Morgan & Jason Ingram © 2009 Reuben Moran et al)
- Grace is when God gives us (Paul Crouch / David Mudie © 1989 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Great is your faithfulness O God (Matt Maher add.lyrics Chris Tomin © 2003 spiritandsong.com)
- Who breaks the power of sin and darkness (Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro & Phil Wickham © 2012 Phil Wickham Music)
- Who O Lord could save themselves (Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin © 2009 Thankyou Music)
- Your grace finds me (Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin © 2013 Thankyou Music)

### iii) Song about thirst for God. Ideas include:

- All who are thirsty (Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson © 1998 Vineyard Songs)
- As the deer pants for the water (Martin Nystrom © 1983 Restoration Music Ltd)
- Here I am down on my knees again (Matt Crocker © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- I desire Jesus (Scott Ligertwood © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- Jesus, Jesus here I am (Philip Hawthorne © 1988 Seadream Music)
- Let your living water (John Watson © 1986 Ampelos Music)
- There's a place where mercy reigns (At the cross) (Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jonas Myrin, Matt Armstrong & Matt Redman © 2014 Thankyou Music)

### iv) Final song. Ideas include:

- All I once held dear. (Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music)
- Come set your rule and reign (Rend Collective © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- In Christ alone (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus my King, my wonderful Saviour (J.M.Harris Adpt words by Andy Bromley © 2005 Thankyou Music)

### Appendix 2 – Map of Israel at the time of Jesus

