

JESUS GIVES



Theme/Value **Giving/including**

Notes:

Intro

Appendix B

Great to be invited
Privilege to lead
We(I) am going to play a game by our(my)selves

Game

Appendix B

Growing game of catch

Story

Ref: John 4:1-42
Woman at the Well - See Appendix A

- Questions
- Name something you're good at
- Significance of collecting water
- Jesus valued her and gave her a job
- Are we included? Do we invite other people in?
- What can we offer?

Reflection
Appendix B

It's Jesus, who is He to you?
Drinks, gets thirsty, sees everyone, includes...?

Song suggestion

I've Got Peace Like a River

Prayer

Thank you God that you want to spend time with everyone, even in the hot sun when you're thirsty. Thank you that no matter what, we are not only included, but loved. Amen.

Invite them all to join in with an 'aaaaaaamen!'

Equipment

6x balls

Suggested Entry Music

My Lighthouse -
Rend Collective



JESUS GIVES

Ref: John 4:1-42

IJ1-6
A

Appendix A: Story

Jesus and his friends were on their way from Judea to Galilee. It was hot and dusty, as they passed through Samaria. The sun was directly overhead in the sky.

"Time for a rest and something to eat," Jesus said to his friends. "Go down the hill and into the town over there. I will wait for you here by this well."

The well was very old. It had been dug by a man called Jacob, many hundreds of years before, but still everyday, people from the nearby town would walk to the well, lower their buckets and draw up fresh water to drink.

As Jesus sat waiting by the well, a woman appeared, walking slowly up the hill from the town, carrying a large jug to fill. We don't know her name so we'll call her Sam.

As she got nearer, Jesus called out to her. "Will you give me a drink?" Jesus asked.

"Me?" Sam was confused - people from Samaria rarely spoke to Jewish people. "Don't you know that I am a Samaritan?" she asked. "Why are you asking me for a drink?"

"If you knew who you were speaking to, you would be asking me for a drink," Jesus answered. "I know about a special kind of water, living water that is a gift from God."

Sam was even more confused. "What is this living water?" she asked. "You don't even have a bucket, so where can you get it? A moment ago you were asking me for water! Are you going to dig a new well here, like Jacob did all those years ago?"

"The water I am talking about doesn't come from a well," Jesus explained again. "It is a precious gift from God. When you drink it, you will never be thirsty again."

"Water that means you are never thirsty again?" the Samaritan woman leaned in with interest. "I want that. I walk here every day to get water. I leave the town and climb the hill to fill my jug, but if I wasn't thirsty, I wouldn't need to." Sam paused, thinking hard. "I don't know anything about you, I don't even know your name!"

"It's Jesus," Jesus replied. "You may not know me, but I know all about you and your life. I know you have been married many times, that you have had challenges in your past. I know that you worship God like the Samaritan people, here on this mountain, not like the Jewish people who worship in Jerusalem. I also know that a time is coming when God's people will be filled with his Spirit and will worship him with their whole hearts."

The woman listened in amazement. "How do you know all of this?" she asked. "Have you met the promised Messiah? The one who will explain everything to us?"

"I am the promised one," Jesus told her.

In the distance there was the sound of voices. Jesus' friends were returning from the town, climbing the hill with food to share. They were confused to find Jesus speaking with a woman they did not know. As they approached, the woman stood up. She left her water jug and hurried past the disciples back towards the town.

"Come with me," Sam called out to the people of the town. "Come with me to the well. I've met a man who knows everything about me. He told me amazing things; he says he is the Messiah, the promised one."

A crowd gathered to listen to the woman. Then they followed her, out of the town, up the hill towards the well. "This is the man," the woman explained. "It's Jesus! Come listen to what he has to say."



Appendix B

Introduction

Isn't it great to be invited somewhere. To be picked for something or asked to do an important job. I am so pleased to be invited here today to see and spend some time with all of you. You may enjoy getting picked for a team, invited to a birthday, or included in a game. None of you however get the privilege of standing up here with me today to lead assembly. It is so great that I've been chosen for this that I'm going to play a game by myself *(or with a partner if you're leading with another person)*.

Game: Catch

Start with one ball just playing throw and catch by yourself or with your co-lead.

Hmm this actually isn't very fun. Maybe I should include some more people. *Invite 2 more people to come up and join in the game of catch.* Hmm still a little boring... what if we get everyone to play?

Explain people have 20 seconds to catch and throw the ball all around the room whilst sitting down.

A giant game of catch! Chaos for 20 seconds then collect in the balls.

It feels good to be included, doesn't it? When we all get to play together and be a part of something. I'm going to tell a story about how Jesus made that happen...

Reflection *Refer to the image of this story as you ask the questions*

Q. How would the woman have felt when a man approached her she didn't know?

Q. How would Jesus have felt when he saw her?

Q. How would you feel if someone you usually ignored got picked for something special?

Can someone tell me something they're good at?

Give own example e.g I'm good at singing and I often sing in a band at Church. Can you imagine what it would be like if people just used you for that good thing and tossed you aside afterwards? Imagine I finished singing a song and my church said 'Ok get out now, we don't want you anymore.' How would you feel?

This woman had things taken from her time and time again. She wasn't just cast aside once but constantly shut out and made to feel unwelcome. It got to the point where she had to wait until the hottest part of the day to go out and collect water. We all fill up our water bottles before school or work. We start the day with a drink because we need to hydrate and fuel ourselves. There's no point carrying around an empty bottle until lunchtime. This woman didn't have a choice – she had to wait until everyone else had gone before collecting water and by that point it was very hot and very dry outside.

You can imagine when Jesus came over, she must have been quite surprised, maybe even a little scared, but Jesus didn't want to take anything from her. When he asks for water he is showing that he values who this woman is and what she can offer - possibly the first person ever to show she was valued. Despite everything people thought about her, Jesus still loved her and wanted to spend time with this woman.

You may feel a bit left out sometimes but that doesn't mean you don't belong or that you're not worthy of friends. Or you may have a great group of friends like Jesus. In that case, it's worth thinking about the people who don't – how do you include others, even if they're not like you? If you come across someone who doesn't think they have something to offer, how can you help them to realise that they do? Jesus didn't just offer Sam things. He showed her she could offer things as well. He empowered Sam to go and lead other people to this amazing man, Jesus, and his forever refreshing feeling of a cold drink on a hot day.

Notes:



JESUS GIVES

IJ1-6
C

