

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: John 4:5-42

In this Sunday's Gospel, a Samaritan woman visiting the village well becomes the bearer of Jesus' Good News to her townspeople. Jesus chose a woman and a Samaritan to spread his message. He offers her living water, which brings a realization that Jesus is the Messiah and his new community will include Samaritans. We are first given living water at Baptism. Through our Baptism we become part of the community and given the grace to live as Jesus did.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Keep track for a day of how your family uses water. Make a chart where each can check off what they did—shower, cook, drink, water the garden—and how the water made them feel—clean, happy, refreshed, relaxed. Use holy water to bless your family at the end of the day.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child is learning that God's presence in creation inspires delight and gratitude. God's presence in your child inspires him or her to follow Jesus. Ask your child about their experience of acting out the story slips to demonstrate how Jesus' followers act. Be sure to notice what delights your child and, as a family, talk about God's presence in these experiences.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child learned more about the Bible and dramatized the story of the woman at the well. Decide how your family will give living water to others by sharing your treasures, your time, or your talents with people in need. Ask your child to share the story of Mother Katharine Drexel with the family.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your child's class learned how important it is to speak up for what is right. Share examples of people who speak up for others. Talk about the woman Jesus met at the well. How did she stand up for Jesus and for the message he gave her? Ask your child to tell you about their scavenger hunt for believers and share the stories of how believers have helped you.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** Your child's class learned how Dorothy Day witnessed Christ's love by helping people in her community. Just as the Samaritan woman was the first to hear directly from Jesus that he was the Messiah, people could learn a lot about Jesus from the way your family lives your Christian life. Talk together about what Jesus means to you and why you want to be his disciple. How can you bring living water to the people in your lives?

## Pray Together

As an evening prayer, children often use the simple litany form of "God bless" followed by the name of a person the child wants God to watch over. Some evening before bed, gather together to create a litany of people who gave you living water by sponsoring you for Baptism or Confirmation, by teaching you about Jesus, by giving you good examples, or the like. Say a few words about the person and all can respond with a hearty "God bless (name)."