

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 26 July 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Fruit of the Spirit / Gentleness –
Jesus meets a woman at a well
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Galatians 5:16-26; John 4:1-30; 39-42
- **CONCEPT:** The Holy Spirit helps me to be gentle

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that Jesus loves everyone, regardless of gender, nationality and lifestyle choices.
- To help kids realise that God's Holy Spirit living in us makes us more like Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Fruit tree picture (the same one you used at the beginning of the series)
- ✓ Slide showing the word 'gentleness'
- ✓ Bucket or water jar
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Treasure chest
- ✓ Name tag box

Jesus was the gentlest man ever. Today we're going to hear a story about a day when Jesus was gentle to someone, even though no one was expecting him to be.

4. Tell the story

Jesus and his disciples were travelling to Galilee. They had to leave Judea because the church leaders and teachers didn't like Jesus too much. Now, the shortest route to get to Galilee was to go through Samaria. Samaria! Does that place ring any bells? Do you remember someone else who came from Samaria? A Samaritan man? (*Try to elicit 'The Good Samaritan'*) Remember, the Jews didn't like the Samaritan people. In fact, the Jews would have walked twice as far around Samaria just to make sure they wouldn't bump into any of those Samaritan people they didn't like! But not Jesus. Jesus chose to walk through Samaria with His disciples. Jesus knew that there was a very good reason why this was the best way to go that day.

Jesus and His disciples, His twelve friends, had been walking through Samaria most of the morning. Hot, dusty Samaria. It was now around 12 o'clock and Jesus was tired. The disciples had walked on into the town to buy some food for lunch, but Jesus wanted to stop and take a rest, so He sat down beside a well – a place where people from the towns came to draw water to take back to their homes. Remember there were no taps and running water in those days, so the water well was a very important place for the townspeople. Twice a day, in the cool of the morning and in the cool of the evening, the women would bring buckets and jars to fill with water from the well to take back to their houses. But this was 12 noon, the middle of the day when the sun was hot, so there was no one at the well when Jesus sat down.

How strange it was that a woman was coming to the well with her water jar at this time of the day! (*Show kids a bucket or water jar. Carry it on your head or shoulder to a location in your room and set it down.*) It almost seemed as if this woman was trying to avoid meeting people at the well; not wanting to meet anyone by coming to get her water after the other women had already been. She stopped at the well, scared to even look at the tired man who was resting there. He was obviously a Jew travelling through Samaria. Jews didn't talk to Samaritans. But what a surprise she got when He asked her for a drink!

"Will you give me a drink?" Jesus said to her.

The Samaritan woman said to Him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink? Why are you even talking to me?"

Jesus said, "If you knew the gift of God and who I am, asking you for a drink, *you* would have asked *me* and I would have given you *living* water."

"Mister," the woman said, "you have no bucket to get water with and the well is really deep. Where can you get this living water from?"

Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks this water from the well here will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will

Bucket or water jar

never thirst. In fact, the water I give them will become a fountain inside them, filling them up and bringing them eternal life.”

Living water?! What on earth does that look like? What shop could you go to and find bottles of living water in the fridge? Sometimes, Jesus says some strange things. What did He mean? Well, we all need water to stay alive, right? It's the most important thing our body needs. Jesus knew that too. He was trying to explain to the woman that just like our bodies need water, our hearts and our lives need this 'living water' that only Jesus can give us. Living water from Jesus means a new life. A new life that fills us up inside with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness.

The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, “Mister, give me some of this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to get more water.” She didn't understand what Jesus meant about His living water and the new life He could give her.

Jesus told the woman to go back home and get her husband, but He already knew that she wasn't married. She told Him, “I have no husband.” Jesus surprised her again. He was able to tell her everything about her life without her saying another word. He said, “The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.”

The woman was amazed. This man knew everything about her! Had he heard people talking? Was he a messenger from God? She changed the subject and started to talk about something else. She started asking him questions about church and about the Jews and the Samaritans. As Jesus explained these things to her she said, “I know that Christ, the Saviour, is coming some day. I know that He will explain everything when He comes.”

Jesus said, “I am Christ. I am Jesus Christ. I am the Saviour of the world you have been waiting for.”

The woman could hardly believe what this man was saying to her! She had thought that he was just a tired traveller. But here he was, telling her that he was actually Jesus Christ, the Saviour God had promised so many years before! Could it be true? The man knew everything about her. He understood things about God that she had never been able to understand. He spoke to her when no one else even cared to look at her. He didn't even get angry when he talked about her five husbands and her boyfriend. He spoke to her so softly and gently, like a friend, as though he knew her and loved her, even though she had made so many mistakes in her life.

She set down her water jar and left Jesus at the well. She walked home, all the time thinking about what had happened. She had just been talking to Jesus! She was excited, amazed, surprised! When she got back to her town, she told the people there, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. This is the Saviour, the One we have been waiting for!”

The people believed her. These Samaritan people believed and trusted in Jesus because of what this woman told them. Jesus stayed in Samaria for two more days, and many more people in the town

believed and trusted when they listened to Jesus talk to them. They understood what living water was. They had found new life in Jesus.

5. Explain

The woman in our story today was a bit wild. She had already had five husbands, and now she was living with a new boyfriend. The people in her town talked about her behind her back, but no one really had a good, kind word to say to her face. What a sad life she had. She had made mistakes. She had made some bad choices. And now she had to go and get her water when the sun was hot just so that she wouldn't hear the other women whispering gossip about her and giving her dirty looks.

Jesus shouldn't even have been talking to her if He had been following the rules. First of all, men didn't speak to women in public. Second, Jews didn't speak to Samaritans. And third, who would speak to a woman like her who had had so many lovers?! Jesus would. Jesus did. Jesus knew that it was far more important for Him to help her and give her the chance to change her life and be saved from her sin, than for Him just to ignore her because she was a woman, because she was a Samaritan, or because she was a sinner. Jesus loved her, just like He loves us. Jesus spoke kindly and gently to her. He didn't shout or yell at her because of her mistakes and her bad life. And the woman was changed. She got the living water Jesus was talking about – she got a new life because she believed and trusted in Him, asked Him to forgive her sin, and help her to live in a new way.

Are you like the woman in that story? Have you made mistakes or bad choices? Do you need to ask Jesus to forgive you and get a new life by trusting Him to be with you? You can follow Jesus today, just like the Samaritan woman did. If you would like to talk more about it, then come and see me before you go home today.

If you already have this new life in Jesus, if you are already a Christian, then that is wonderful! But take a look around when you are playing in the streets, when you are on holiday, when you are at school in class. There are lots of people who don't know about Jesus and the fantastic gift of new life He offers. And maybe some of those people are people you don't like too much – people who are different from you; people who do things that you wouldn't do; people who get into trouble or even people who are real goody-two-shoes ... whoever they are, they all need to know about Jesus. We should remember that Jesus spoke to all kinds of people, no matter where they came from or what things they got up to. Let's try to be more like Him, kind and gentle, ready to tell others about Him without shouting and yelling about what people have done wrong.

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.

You'll need ...

*Net (with last week's prayer cards)
Small cards / postcards
A pen*

<p>4. <i>Explain:</i> When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things. Have you made mistakes like the woman in our story today? Would you like to tell Jesus you're sorry and ask Him to forgive you? ... Is there someone who you would like to tell about Jesus but you haven't found the courage or the right time? We can pray that God's Holy Spirit will help you to be kind and gentle as you talk to that person.</p> <p>5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Encourage kids to trust that God, who is faithful, will do the best for us, even if we don't get the answer we want. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.</p> <p>6. Ask kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.</p> <p>7. Close in prayer.</p>	
--	--

<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <p>1. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p> <p>2. Sing a closing song. (<i>This is the Day</i>)</p> <p>3. <i>Recap:</i> Let's put the water bucket into the treasure chest to remind us next week of the woman at the well. Let's remember how gentle Jesus was as He spoke to her, and remember that we can ask God's Holy Spirit to help us be:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Loving</i> ... like Mary, who poured her very expensive perfume over Jesus' feet;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Joyful</i> ... like the dad who threw a great party for his lost son who came back home;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Peaceful</i> ... like Paul and Silas when they were thrown into prison;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Patient</i> ...like Joseph, who had to wait a long, long time to see and understand God's plan for his life;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Kind</i> ... like Dorcas, who sewed clothes to help people who were poor and in need in her town;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Good</i> ... like the man from Samaria, who cared for people and did his best to help them no matter who they were;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Faithful</i> ... like King Hezekiah, who trusted God right through his problems and worries;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>and Gentle</i> ... like Jesus as He spoke to the woman at the well.</p> <p>4. Remind kids to come back this evening. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p>7 minutes</p> <p><i>You'll need ...</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Bucket or water jar</i> <i>Treasure chest</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
--	---

THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 26 July 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making *Gentleness Soup*.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse through games with peaches.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Activity:
 - Table
 - Pre-made card peach labelled 'gentleness'
(which you will later fix to your display. See photos below.)
 - A fuzzy peach
 - Cooking pot or saucepan
 - Dish of mashed peaches (one can)
 - Dish of mashed strawberries (~ 2 cups)
 - Wooden spoon
 - Jar of peppercorns
 - Carton of peach yoghurt
 - Can of tuna fish
 - Carton of strawberry yoghurt
 - Jar of pickled onions
 - Container of sugar (3 tablespoons)
 - Container of lemon juice (4 tablespoons)
 - Jar of mustard
 - Fridge
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Slide – Galatians 5:22 (first to eighth fruit)
 - A fuzzy peach
- ✓ Plastic cups (one per child)
- ✓ Ladle
- ✓ Name tag box

<p><i>Lift a carton of strawberry yoghurt.</i> This one is called ‘keeping your cool instead of getting mad’. Do I need to put this into the Gentleness Soup? Yes! <i>Ask a child to add the yoghurt to the pot. Ask another child to mix the pot contents with a big wooden spoon.</i></p> <p><i>Lift a jar of pickled onions.</i> This jar is called ‘pushing and pulling’. Do I need to put this into the Gentleness Soup? N O spells no! <i>Set the jar to the side.</i></p> <p><i>Lift a container of sugar.</i> This is called ‘giving someone a hug when they’re sad’. Should this go into the Gentleness Soup? Definitely. <i>Ask a child to add the sugar to the pot. Ask another child to mix the pot contents with a big wooden spoon.</i></p> <p><i>Lift a container of lemon juice.</i> This is called ‘looking for good things in people even though they have made lots of mistakes’. Do I need to put this into the Gentleness Soup? Absolutely! <i>Ask a child to add the lemon juice to the pot. Ask another child to mix the pot contents with a big wooden spoon.</i></p> <p><i>Lift a jar of mustard.</i> This is called ‘blaming someone else when it was your fault’. Should this go into our Gentleness Soup? No, not a very gentle ingredient.</p> <p>So, there we have it! That’s everything we need to make our Gentleness Soup today. <i>Mix the pot contents together thoroughly as you talk.</i> Taking care of each other, not telling lies, speaking softly and kindly to each other instead of yelling and shouting, not calling people names, staying calm and cool instead of getting mad, not pushing and pulling and fighting but giving someone a hug when they’re sad, not blaming someone else when you do something wrong, and always looking for good in people even though they have made mistakes.</p> <p>Now we need to put the soup into the fridge for a while before we taste it.</p> <p><i>Have an adult helper put the pot of soup into the fridge. Leave it there until the end of the session when kids will have a chance to taste it. Tidy up and set table to the side.</i></p>	<p><i>Carton of strawberry yoghurt</i></p> <p><i>Jar of pickled onions</i></p> <p><i>Container of sugar</i></p> <p><i>Container of lemon juice</i></p> <p><i>Jar of mustard</i></p> <p><i>Fridge</i></p>
<p>G. Memory Verse (with puppets) 15 minutes</p> <p><i>“... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness ...” (Galatians 5:22)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to stand in a space on the floor. 2. Ask a few questions to recap today’s story of the woman at the well: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus and His disciples were going back to Galilee. Most Jews would have walked twice as far as they needed to. But Jesus took the shortest route. Where did Jesus and the disciples walk through? <i>Samaria</i> - The Jews would have done anything to avoid the Samaritans. 	<p>You’ll need ...</p>

<p>But Jesus knew there was a good reason to pass that way. Where did Jesus stop to rest? <i>At a well</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who did He meet there? <i>A Samaritan woman</i> - Why was it a strange time for the woman to be at the well? <i>Most women went to get their water in the morning and in the evening when it was cooler. This woman didn't want to meet people when she went to get her water.</i> - Jesus asked her for a drink. Why was she so surprised? <i>Jews didn't talk to Samaritans, men didn't talk to women, and no one talked to her.</i> - Jesus said He could give her 'living water'. What did He mean? <i>Just like our bodies need water to survive, so our hearts and lives need this living water only Jesus can give. Living water means a new life that fills us up inside with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness.</i> - Jesus knew everything about this woman and He told her so. What did He tell her? <i>"You have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband."</i> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> This woman was a bit wild. She had already had five husbands, and now she was living with a new boyfriend. The people in her town talked about her behind her back, but no one really had a good, kind word to say to her face. What a sad life she had. She had made mistakes. She had made some bad choices. And now she had to go and get her water when the sun was hot just so that she wouldn't hear the other women whispering gossip about her and giving her dirty looks.</p> <p>Jesus knew that it was far more important for Him to help her and give her the chance to change her life and be saved from her sin, than for Him just to ignore her because she was a woman, because she was a Samaritan, or because she was a sinner. Jesus loved her, just like He loves us. Jesus spoke kindly and gently to her. He didn't shout or yell at her because of her mistakes and her bad life. And the woman was changed. She got the living water Jesus was talking about – she got a new life because she believed and trusted in Him, asked Him to forgive her sin and help her to live in a new way.</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> When we believe and trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit – God's power – lives in us, helping us to be gentle to the people around us. That's what our memory verse says. <i>Show verse on screen and read aloud together:</i> "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness ..." Galatians 5:22.</p> <p>5. Repeat verse a few times together as a group, and individually, until you feel kids know it well. <i>Move to a blank screen.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Explain:</i> Let's stand in a circle. We're going to play a game called 'Hot Peach'. You have to pass the peach around the circle. When I shout, 'HOT!', the person holding the peach must say something they think is gentle. It could be a soft blanket, cotton wool, even your granny! When you have held the hot peach and said something gentle, then you should sit down.</p> <p>7. Check kids are standing in a circle formation. Give one child the peach and tell them to start passing it around the circle. Either you</p>	<p><i>Memory verse slide (Galatians 5:22)</i></p> <p><i>A peach</i></p>
--	---

<p>or an adult helper should shout, 'hot!' at appropriate moments to ensure as many kids as possible get to say something they think is gentle. As kids sit down after their turn, move the remaining kids to make a closer circle.</p> <p>8. <i>Explain:</i> When the woman got back to her town, she told the people there, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. This is the Saviour, the One we have been waiting for!" The people believed her. These Samaritan people believed and trusted in Jesus because of what this woman told them. Jesus stayed in Samaria for two more days, and many more people in the town believed and trusted when they listened to Jesus talk to them. They understood what living water was. They had found new life in Jesus. We should remember that Jesus spoke to all kinds of people, no matter where they came from or what things they got up to. We should try to be more like Him, kind and gentle, ready to tell others about Him without shouting and yelling about what people have done wrong.</p> <p>9. <i>Explain:</i> Back in our big circle, we're going to pass the peach around again. This time, we're going to practise saying our memory verse. The first person should say the first word of the verse, 'the'. Then pass the peach to the next person who should say the next word, 'fruit'. Keep going, saying the next word as you hold the peach until the verse is finished. Just to remind us, let's say the verse altogether before we start. <i>Have kids repeat verse once altogether. Start the game. Repeat if you have time, getting faster on each rotation.</i></p> <p>10. Finish with a group repetition of the verse.</p> <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p>A peach</p>
--	----------------

<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <p>1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (<i>This is the Day</i>)</p> <p>2. Ask kids to recite the memory verse once more altogether. Get the soup from the fridge. Ladle into plastic cups for kids to drink.</p> <p>3. Remind kids that we should always try to be gentle to people like Jesus was to the woman at the well. Remind kids that if they feel more like the woman in the story, having made mistakes or bad choices, needing Jesus to forgive them, then they can have a new life today by trusting Jesus, just like the Samaritan woman did. Ask any kids who would like to talk more about this to stay behind to talk before they go home.</p> <p>4. Close in prayer.</p> <p>5. Remind kids to come back next week for their last trip to The Island! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p>7 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Supernatural</i>)</p> <p><i>Gentleness Soup</i> <i>Plastic cups</i> <i>Ladle</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
---	---

