

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 24. **THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER**

- Purpose:
- a) To reinforce the concept that “It’s what’s inside that counts.”
 - b) To teach the child that Living Water is needed for the person “inside” the house-that-we-call “our body.”
 - c) To introduce the story of the “woman at the well” (John 4:5-15) and, consequently, to show that the Bible is a place where we can learn more about God through Jesus’ teachings.
 - d) Indirectly, to show the child that we can’t just go and get a drink of the Living Water in the same way that we can get an ordinary drink (i.e., by ourselves).

Materials: Water, for drinking, in a large container. (I use a very large camping thermos that has a nozzle that’s easy enough for the children to work by themselves.)

Many small paper cups, preferably in a wall container.

A plastic tub under the thermos to catch spills and to pour out any unused water from the cups.

A waste basket for the used cups.

A Bible.

- Presentation:
- 1) Ask the children if they are thirsty.
 - 2) Show them how to get water from the container, what to do with the excess water that they don’t want to drink, and where to throw their paper cups when they are finished.
 - 3) Tell the children that they may each “get in line” (you may have to show them what this means) and get one drink before we get started with today’s lesson.
 - 4) After they have all had a chance to get a drink, tell them that after the lesson, they may get a drink whenever they want to...because water is one of the things we need in order to live.
 - 5) Ask them if they remember that God divided the waters into two kinds: the kind that they can see and the kind that they can feel...with their hearts.
 - 6) Ask them what kind of water they have been drinking.

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- 7) Ask them how many of them would like to go back and get some more of this water!
- 8) Tell them that's the way this kind of water is...you have to keep going back for more, because you keep getting thirsty, again.
- 9) But, the other kind of water...the kind that we can feel in our hearts...isn't like that. All you need is one drink and you'll never be thirsty again!
- 10) It's called the Living Water.
- 11) Ask the children if they remember that our bodies are like houses...that the "real us" lives "inside" these bodies.
- 12) Tell them that the Living Water is for the "us that's inside."
- 13) And we know about this water because Jesus told us about it. You see, a long time ago, the people didn't understand about the two kinds of water, so He had to teach them.
- 14) Hold up a Bible and tell the children that "This is the Bible." Tell them that "It is a book about God...and there are many things in it!"
- 15) Tell them that today, we are going to read about the time when Jesus taught about the Living Water.

This is how it happened...

(Teacher: You may wish to tell the story in somewhat simpler terms, but be sure that you are "reading" them a story from the Bible.)

- 16) After the story is finished, emphasize how much better the Living Water is for us to have!
- 17) Our bodies may need "the water we can see"...but the you and I inside these bodies need the Living Water...the water we can feel with in hearts.
- 18) Because it's what's inside these houses that are much more important than the houses themselves!

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- 19) But, we can't just go and get it ourselves...like we can with this water (point to the thermos).
- 20) It is given to us...by Jesus...as a gift from God.

Activity: You will find that the children spend most of the remaining time getting a drink from the thermos. The novelty of being able to do it themselves is very fascinating to children of this age.