Lesson 1

Jesus Knows Me

Scripture: John 4:4-26
Lesson Focus: Jesus knows who we are.
Memory Verse: He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Getting Ready for the Bible
To help the children connect their own experiences with the Bible story from John 4:4-26, they will talk about who they are.
• Opening Activity: Ball
• Sharing Time: No materials needed

Bible Story Time: John 4:4-26
The children will find out what Jesus told the woman at the well.
• Bible Story: Teaching Aid 4 (from Preschool Creative Teaching Aids), craft sticks or pencils, tape, Bible
• Bible Story Review: Teaching Aid 4 (from Preschool Creative Teaching Aids)
• Bible Memory Verse: No materials needed

The Bible and Me
The children will explore activity centers that will help them understand that Jesus knows who they are.
• Lesson Card: Page for Lesson 1 (from Preschool Make-It/Take-It), crayons; optional: yarn, glue sticks, digital camera and printer, tape
• Puppet Review: Teaching Aid 4 (from Preschool Creative Teaching Aids)
• “Have You Seen” Game: No materials needed

Going Home with the Bible
By remembering that Jesus knows who we are, the children will see how the Bible story works in their own lives.
• Bible, construction paper, markers; optional: paper plates; My Sunday Pictures, Lesson 1 and Family Card A

Understanding the Bible
In Jesus’ time, Palestine was made up of three major provinces. Galilee was to the north, Samaria in the middle, and Judea to the south. Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee. Instead of going north on the east side of the Jordan River, as many Jews did, He traveled through Samaria. This brought Him to Jacob’s well at Sychar (Gen. 33:19).

Since the Jews had returned from Babylonian captivity in 539 B.C., they had not gotten along with the people (Jews who had intermarried) in the province of Samaria. Most Jews feared they would become unclean after coming in contact with a Samaritan.

Jesus met the woman at the well, possibly around noon. Usually women drew their water near the end of the day. Because of her bad reputation, this woman may have chosen to come to the well at a time when she would not be rejected by others.

It was surprising that Jesus addressed the woman for two reasons. Drinking from the cup could be defiling. Secondly, Jewish rabbis did not speak to women publicly. A man only talked to a woman in her husband’s presence.

Jesus offered the woman the gift of “living water.” Jesus explained that the gift of living water was eternal life, but she did not understand (John 4:13-15).

To show the woman who He was, Jesus talked about her past married life (John 4:18). Some Jews believed a woman could divorce twice, not five times as this woman had done.
Lesson 1 Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

Welcome Time Activities
These fun activities start your preschoolers thinking about the lesson while letting you greet parents and children as they arrive. The centers require little or no supervision and can be set up before class. Help children get involved in an activity as they arrive and parents leave.

Moving and Doing
Write children’s names on the Fall Attendance Chart (Teaching Aid 1) found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Post the chart at the children's height. Ask them to put a sticker in the day’s spot.

Projects
Punch out the nametag hearts from the Make-It/Take-It pages for Lesson 1. Thread yarn through the hole and write each child’s name on the tags. Let the children color them. While working on a tag, each child learns to recognize his or her name. This knowledge helps them understand who Jesus knows in today’s Bible story from John 4:4-26.

Table Play
Set out crayons and the people pattern from page 3 of the Make-It/Take-It books for children to color. The colored figures can be put on a bulletin board. Children will color the bus next week.

Teacher Tip
Preschoolers may have mixed emotions on their first day of Sunday school. This may be their first introduction into a class setting. Help each child become involved in an activity so that the child is occupied when a parent leaves.

Worship Time
Before you begin today’s lesson, you may want to have a short worship time. Have the children sit down in a circle, either on a rug or in chairs. Worship time is a time when we tell God how much we love Him for all He has done for us. We do that by giving offerings, singing to God, and praying to God.

Have a child collect offerings. Dear God, You give us many things. These offerings are one way we say thank You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

• Teach the following words to the tune “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad.”
  I’m so glad that Jesus loves me,
  He helps me each day.
  I’m so glad that Jesus loves me,
  And He never goes away!
  When I’m sad or feeling lonely,
  When I feel okay—
  Jesus loves me and protects me
  Every single day.
  Repeat the song with the children clapping and singing.
  • Close with a prayer. Dear Jesus, thank You for always loving and caring for us. Help us learn that one way You love us is by knowing who we are. In Your name. Amen.
Lesson 1 Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the Bible story from John 4:4-26, they will talk about who they are.

Materials: Ball

Opening Activity

Once the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, introduce the game. Playing a game with introductions helps the children understand today’s Bible story when Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman at the well.

Do you know who everyone in our class is? Today we are going to play a game to help us learn each other’s names. My name is (Be sure to use the name you want the children to call you in class). Each of you has a name that is very important.

Begin by saying the following rhyme as you roll the ball to a child.

My name is _________.
How do you do?
Tell us your name,
We’d like to meet you!

Have the child holding the ball roll it to another child substituting his or her name in the rhyme. Continue this game until everyone has had a turn. Put the ball away where the children won’t be distracted by it.

It was fun to learn who everyone is. Let’s learn more about each other.

More to Know

Terminology of life in the Spirit. God does not have a double standard—one for the born again or newly redeemed and one for the sanctified believer. His standard is one—“Be ye holy, for the Lord they God is Holy”) Lev. 11:44-45; Deut. 26:19; Matt. 5:48; 1 Pet. 1:15-16). This quarter, we’ll look at some of the steps and biblical support to living the holy life, or life in the Spirit.

Sharing Time

As you and your class talk, be sure to allow time for each child to say something. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story through his or her own experience. Sharing simple facts about yourself may help the children begin the discussion.

Who can tell us how old they are? Preschoolers love to share exactly how old they are. Some of the children will mention that they are four-and-a-half years old instead of being four. Preschoolers are very proud of how old they are. Each passing year, and even half a year, helps them feel more independent and able to do “grown-up” things.

Who can tell us when their birthday is? As children talk about their birthdays, remember that time doesn’t mean much to them. They may think their birthday was yesterday when it really was last month. Some children will know the month and even the day of their birthdays. Encourage them to give the date of their birthday as they talk.

We just told each other a little bit about who we are. Today we are going to learn that Jesus knows who we are. In our Bible story, Jesus teaches someone that He knows who she is. Listen to find out who that person is.
Lesson 1 Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

Bible Story Time

John 4:4-26
The children will find out what Jesus told the woman at the well.

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Teaching Aid 4, craft sticks or pencils, tape, Bible

Bible Story

Before class, punch out the figures from Teaching Aid 4. Follow the directions on the back of Teaching Aid 4 to assemble the puppets and the well figure. The children should still be gathered in a group ready for the story. Have your Bible open to John 4 to begin. Today’s story comes from the Bible. It comes from the book of the Bible called John. (Show the children where John is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to John 4 as you tell the story.)

The Bible tells us that Jesus and His helpers were on a long journey. They were on their way home through another country. (“Walk” Figure 1, the standing Jesus, in front of you. Have children pat their knees.) Left foot, right foot. Jesus had been walking a long time. It was about noon and He was tired and thirsty. (Stand Figure 2, the well, in front of you. Move Jesus, Figure 1, toward the well.) Soon Jesus came to a place with a well. That’s where Bible-time people got water. Jesus decided to stop and rest by the well. (Replace the standing Jesus, Figure 1, with the sitting Jesus, Figure 3.) Jesus’ helpers went to the nearby town to buy food.

Soon a woman came to the well to get water. (Have children pat their knees. “Walk” the woman, Figure 4, to the well, Figure 2.) She brought a jar so she could bring water home from the well. She was all by herself. (Have Jesus, Figure 3, face the woman, Figure 4.) Jesus asked the woman, “Will you give me a drink of water?”

The woman was surprised. She said, “How can you ask me for a drink? You are from a different country. People from Your country usually don’t talk to us.”

Jesus told the woman, “You don’t know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Him for something much better than cold water on a hot day.” Jesus knew that God knew about the woman and cared for her. He wanted to help her know about God. Jesus also knew about wrong things the woman had done and He told her He knew. Again the woman was surprised. Jesus knew all about her and He still cared about her. She knew then that Jesus was very special. She listened carefully as Jesus told her about something wonderful. Jesus told her that He was the Savior God had promised to send into the world.

That was why Jesus knew about her! Jesus, the Son of God, knew who she was. The woman left her jar at the well and ran back to the town. She told her neighbors all about Jesus. (Remove the woman, Figure 4. Pat your knees.)

Jesus knew all about the woman. Jesus knows who we are too. And He loves us!

Bible Story Questions

- Who did Jesus meet at the well? The woman.
- What did Jesus tell the woman? He told her about “something better than water”; He told her He knew about the wrong things she had done.
- Who is Jesus? Children will have had to listen carefully to the story to hear that Jesus is God’s Son. Some children will have no problems answering this question while others may say “I don’t know.”
- Who knows who we are? Jesus knows who we are too.
Lesson 1 Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

Bible Story Review Activity

This activity uses some movement to review today’s Bible story.

Choose three children to hold Figures 1, 2, and 4 from Teaching Aid 4 found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Have them stand in three different parts of the room.

Let’s play a game. I’ll ask a question about a story. You stand next to the puppet that is the right answer to the question. Ask the following questions. You may want to repeat the questions or ask some of your own.

- Where did Jesus sit when He was tired? At the well.
- Who did Jesus talk to at the well? The woman.
- Who knew all about the woman? Jesus.
- Who knows about us? Jesus.

Encourage all the children to move after each question.

While some children may just follow others, they are still learning key ideas of the story.

Bible Memory Verse

He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

As children practice a Bible verse week after week, they will be able to understand and remember it. Have the children do either the practice or the rhyme, or both.

Practice

Say the verse to the children and have them repeat it back to you. Practicing words set to music with actions helps preschoolers remember the Bible verse longer. This week, sing the following words to the tune “Little Bo Peep” or say the words in rhythm.

He cares for you—
(Point up.)
the Bible says,
In First Peter fi ve verse se ven.
(Hold hands like a book.)

Bible Rhyme Time

In the Bible Rhyme Time, the verse is in first and fourth lines of the rhyme. Teach the words and actions a line at a time. Have the children repeat each line back to you. Jesus knows who we are because He cares for us. Our new Bible memory verse tell us that Jesus cares.

He cares for you.
(Point to a child.)
He knows you by name.
(Point to someone else.)
He listens when you pray.
(Fold hands.)

He cares for you.
(Pretend to look in a mirror.)
He’s your special friend.
(Hug self.)
Follow Him every day.
(Walk in place.)
Lesson 1 Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

3

The Bible and Me

The children will explore activity centers that will help them understand that Jesus knows who they are.

In today’s Bible story, your class learned that Jesus talked to a woman at the well. To help children understand that Jesus knows who they are, choose one or more of the following activities. Before you let the children begin these activities, demonstrate each one you have chosen. The “Have You Seen” game needs the most teacher supervision this week.

Lesson Card:

Materials: Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 1, crayons; optional: yarn, glue sticks, digital camera and printer, tape

This activity helps the children understand the Lesson Focus, “Jesus knows who we are,” on a personal level. If you didn’t use the heart nametags as a Welcome Time activity, you need to remove the page for Lesson 1 from the Make-It/Take-It books. Punch out the hearts to use with your class another time. Have children fold the paper on the dotted line to make a card. If needed, help a child print his or her name on the sign. Let the children color the card with crayons. Children could glue pieces of yarn on for hair. You could take photos and tape each child’s photo over the child’s face on the card.

“Have You Seen” Game:

Materials: None needed

This game helps the children actively explore the idea taught in today’s Bible story from John 4:4-26—that Jesus knows who we are.

Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be in the middle of the circle as the helper. Ask the helper, “Have you seen my friend?” Describe one of the children sitting in the circle. Once the helper finds the friend respond with “You know (child’s name). Jesus knows who we are too.” The child who was found becomes the new helper. Let the children take turns describing each other.

Puppet Review:

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Teaching Aid 4

To help children think more about the Bible story where Jesus talked to the woman at the well, let them retell the story to each other using the puppets from Teaching Aid 4.

Set out the puppets used in telling the Bible story. Encourage the children to take turns telling the story to each other.

As you observe children at this activity, listen to what they are saying. They should be using their own words to tell the main points of the Bible story.

When you are ready to close your activities, have the children clean up the centers, and gather in a big group. You may want to use the following rhyme to help attract the children’s attention.

As quick as mice, scurry around. Clean up nice, without a sound!
Lesson 1 Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

Going Home with the Bible

By remembering that Jesus knows who we are, the children will see how the Bible story works in their own lives.

Materials: Bible, construction paper, washable markers; optional: paper plates

Before class, write “Jesus knows me” on either a sheet of paper or a paper plate for each child.

After cleaning up, have the children sit on chairs around a table. Use this time to help the children plan to remember that Jesus knows who we are. Show the children once again where John 4:4-26 is in the Bible. In our Bible story today we heard that Jesus met a woman at a well. Because Jesus knows everyone, He knew the woman and all about her. Who knows who we are? (Jesus.) Jesus knows our thoughts and actions. He knows who we are. And He loves us! That’s wonderful!

Show the children one of the pieces of paper you have prepared. The words on the paper say “Jesus knows me.” Where could you put your paper to help you remember that Jesus knows you? (Some possible answers children may give are in a bedroom, on the refrigerator door, and on a mirror.)

Give each child a paper to color. As you color your paper, think of where you will put it during the week to help you remember that Jesus knows you. Give the children time to color.

When the children are done coloring, gather them into a circle on the floor or on chairs. Let each child share where he or she will put the paper or plate. You may want to go first to model the sharing time for the children. I am going to put my paper (Name a place you have chosen.) to help me remember that Jesus knows me.

Close with a prayer. Let’s close with a prayer and repeat after me. Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Thank You for knowing each of one of us and what we need. We love you. In Your name. Amen.

If You Have Extra Time

Birthdays are very important to preschoolers. You may choose to celebrate birthdays once a month or once a quarter. If you only celebrate birthdays once a quarter, include children born in October and November today.

Jesus knows who we are. He knows everything about us, including our birthdays. Some of you were born in September. Have each child stand next to you. ______ has a birthday this month. He/she will be _____ years old! Repeat for children born in October and November if you are including those birthdays today.

As a class, sing “Happy Birthday” to each child. Finish with a prayer. Dear God, thank You for (children’s names). We’re glad they come to Sunday school. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Time to Go Home

• Before children leave for the day, be sure to hand out the My Sunday Pictures card for Lesson 1 and Family Card A.
• Until parents come to pick up the children, let them play the “Have You Seen” game found on page 13 of this teacher’s guide.
• As you say good-bye to the children, remind them of the Lesson Focus: Jesus knows who we are.

Send Home...

• My Sunday Pictures for Lesson 1
• Family Card A from My Sunday Pictures
• Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 1
Jesus cares for . . .

NAME

FOR TEACHER

Before class:
• Remove this page from the book.
• Punch out the heart in the center of the heart-shaped frame. (These hearts will be used in a Welcome Time Activity as suggested in the teacher's guide.)
• Fold the page back on the broken line and then unfold it to make a crease as a guide for the child to follow.

During class:
• Let children color their cards.
• Help each child print his or her name on the sign inside the card the child is holding.
• Optional: Help children glue on yarn for hair to make the child in the picture look like themselves.
• Or take a photo and tape each child's photo over the child's face on his card.

Talk about:
• The fact that we can be happy because Jesus knows who we are.
• The fact that we are important to Jesus.

FOR PARENTS

In class today the lesson was that Jesus knows who we are. Your child heard the Bible story about when Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman at a well (John 4:4-26). At home this week, remind your child that Jesus knows who we are. Read the lesson together and answer: Who does Jesus love? Why does Jesus know who we are? How is Jesus our father? Read this card aloud as a reminder of Jesus' love. Also help your child start to learn the Bible verse, “He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).
He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7
My Sunday Pictures

PRESCHOOL
Activities for Parents and Preschoolers

September — November 2012

Wesley
Jesus was sitting by a well. He stopped there to rest because He was tired and thirsty.

There was water in the well. But Jesus didn’t have a jar to get the water out.

Soon a woman who had a jar walked up to the well. Jesus said to the woman, “I’m thirsty. Will you give Me a drink of water?”

The woman didn’t know what to say. She did know that she and Jesus were from two different countries. The people from those two places were not friends. They didn’t even talk to each other.

So the woman asked, “Why are You asking me for a drink?”

Jesus said, “I know all about you and what you need. God has a gift for you. I come so that you can have it.”

The woman was happy. She was glad that Jesus had talked to her. She ran to tell others about Jesus.
Family Time
Use these activities throughout the week to review the Bible lesson as a whole family or individually with your child.

Little Chefs
Stack cheese cubes in a circle to make a well. Take turns eating the “well” brick by brick while saying one thing Jesus knows about us.

Creative Corner
Make a book with one page for each of your child’s family members and friends. Try to include a photo on each person’s page and write what you know about that person such as birthday, favorite color, favorite food, etc. Talk about what you know about people in the book and that Jesus knows all about who we are.

Sweet Dreams
Rest time can be lonely. Play soft music to comfort your child, or record yourself reading Bible stories.

Bible Time
Use these Bible activities during family devotions or special Bible times you have with your preschooler.

In God’s Book
Let your child make a well from play dough. Retell the story of Jesus and the woman at the well using plastic people.

Let’s Pray
Encourage your child to pray whenever he feels alone. Jesus knows who we are and everything about us—including how we feel!

LESSON FOCUS:
Jesus knows who we are.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE:
He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7
Wesley for preschoolers presents a Sunday school experience that is alive with activity, creativity, and learning. Through interactive storytelling, music, crafts, and more, you’ll be able to keep the attention of your children while building a foundation of faith.

**Teacher’s Guide**

Thirteen easy-to-teach lessons guide teacher preparation and student application, both in class and at home. In every lesson, you’ll find Bible background information, tips on understanding and teaching preschoolers, and the Bible story—complete with review questions, activities, and application.

*One per teacher recommended.*

**Creative Teaching Aids**

An essential resource for teaching preschoolers, the Creative Teaching Aids include a quarterly attendance chart, Bible-art posters and figures, games, and a music CD.

*One per class recommended.*

**Make-It Take-It**

With simple classroom supplies, the crafts in this book help the Bible lessons learned at church to be meaningful throughout the week at home.

*One per student recommended.*

**My Sunday Pictures**

Weekly take-home cards present the Bible story and family activities to incorporate the Bible lesson at home.

*One per student recommended.*