

Suggestion: As you read the story, let your child complete the trace-the-dots picture of Jesus.

A Thirsty Heart (Beginner Story)

Based on John 4:4-42

While Jesus was growing up in Nazareth, a woman in another town had a big problem. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly what her problem was, but it does tell us two important things. She was a Samaritan living in a town called Sychar, and she had been divorced five times and was living with a sixth man.

Even though the Bible doesn't tell us how her story began perhaps it happened like this...

There once was a little girl in Sychar who was curious and full of questions. Even though girls didn't go to school, her father told her stories about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. He also taught her about why the Samaritans weren't friends with their neighbors – the Jews.

When she was ten, her father became very sick and he died. She cried and cried. It felt like her heart had a big hole that would never get better.

She grew up into a beautiful lady, and she met a nice young man that brought her flowers and treated her nicely. The woman thought that maybe he would make her heart feel better.

They got married, but it wasn't long before they were arguing all the time. She thought that he wasn't listening to her, and he thought that she was being difficult. Finally, their marriage ended.

The woman got married again. “This time will be different,” she thought. But again, it didn’t work out.

After three more divorces everyone decided that she was a very bad lady. No one wanted to be her friend.

The woman was desperate. She had no money and no one wanted to help her. She finally ended up living with a man who didn’t care much about her and certainly didn’t care about getting married. The woman’s heart felt even worse.

Every day all the ladies in town would have to go to the well to get water for cooking and cleaning. They liked to do this chore early in the morning when it was cool. But when the woman would arrive with *her* water jar, all the other ladies would turn away from her, and their happy talking would change into whispers.

The woman knew that they were saying mean things about her, so soon she stopped going to the well in the early morning. She would wait until all the other ladies were gone. Even though the sun was hot, it was better than being treated like garbage.

One hot day, as she came to the well, she saw a stranger sitting there all alone. She did not know that the stranger was Jesus — and that He was about to change her world!

to be continued...

**Read Part 2
to find out what happens to the paralyzed man
and his friends.**

Trace the Dots and Color

