

## In God's hands - God knows all about us and still loves us

Have you visited any of the wells around Malvern? Our story this week takes place by a well. Jesus said something very funny about drinking and being thirsty - he said that if we are his friends he can make us never be thirsty again! Let's hear the story to find out more:



**Watch** our video here <https://youtu.be/U1cd4iJcvL0>

**Read** the story of the 'Woman at the well' in John 4:1-29 or in a children's Bible storybook.

I wonder what surprised you most about this story?

I wonder how the woman must have felt knowing that Jesus knew everything about her?

I wonder what you think Jesus meant when he was talking about 'living water'?

I wonder what you think God might be saying to you through this story?

When the woman was talking to Jesus several things happened to her. The woman was disliked by other people which was why she was collecting her water in the hottest part of the day but Jesus treated her with kindness and respect. Jesus told her about 'living water', water that could wash away the wrong things she had done and let her start over again, and the woman eventually understood this. She realised that God loved her even though she had got things wrong. The woman was so excited by the life Jesus was offering her that she wanted to tell everyone!

**Pray** - you might like to pray together or spend some time praying on your own. Draw a happy face on one piece of paper and a sad face on another piece of paper. On a sticky note (or a small piece of paper) draw a picture of a time when you have done something really good and stick it next to the happy face. On another sticky note (or a small piece of paper) draw a picture of a time when you have done something you shouldn't have done and stick that next to the sad face.

Does God know about these things? Does God love you when you do good things? And bad things? God knows all about us, he doesn't love the bad things we do but he loves us all the time. Spend some time thanking God for forgiving us when we say sorry and for loving us even when we get things wrong.

**Play Kim's game** - gather together some personal items such as keys, a handkerchief, a watch, a ring, a toy or a photo. Chat about each of the items and why they are special to you, for example, your keys might remind you of your home; Jesus knows where you live, the toy is special because your grandparent gave it to you and Jesus knows this too. Place the items one by one on a tray. Cover the items up and see how many you can remember. Even if you forget one of them, Jesus will never forget. He knows and remembers everything about us and loves us completely.

**Make a paper cup** - the encounter with Jesus changed the woman's life for ever. She recognised who he was and understood about the 'living water' he was offering her. Make a cup from a square sheet of paper (see instructions below) and then see if it will hold water. Can you drink from it?

As you make the cup, ask Jesus what he would like to say to you today in the encounters you have with him - as you spend time with him, reading the Bible, praying and talking? Do you want to drink the 'living water' he offers to you? Use your cup and as you drink water from it you might like to answer the last question and thank Jesus for loving you and being your friend.

**Make a picture** - draw a picture of a large tap and stick little squares of foil on to it. Draw some large drops of water coming from the tap and colour them blue or stick blue tissue paper on them to look like water. Write this verse on your picture:

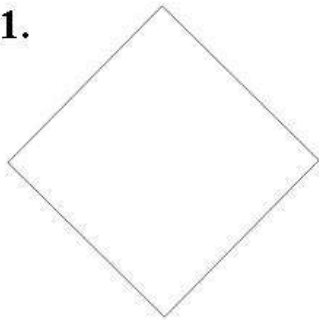
*"No one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again." John 4:14*



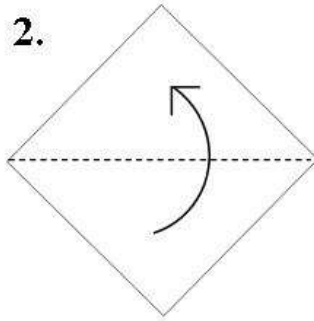
**The Kindness project** - this week we are thinking about facing failure, and the woman in the story must have felt like that at times until she met Jesus. I wonder if there is someone you know who might be feeling a bit like that too, maybe someone who is sad or lonely or just a bit different to you? What could you do to let them know that you are thinking of them or praying for them or just to let them know that God loves them? Maybe make a card or send a message or just spend some time and be kind to them!

Make a paper cup from a square of paper

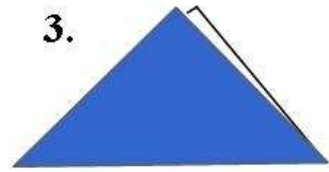
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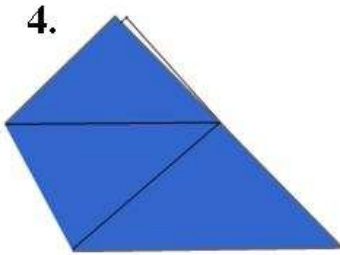
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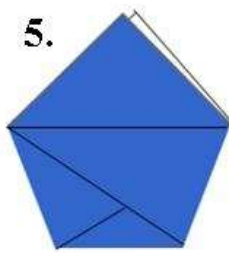
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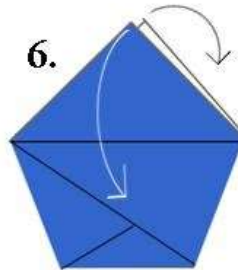
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