



## SPRINKLE THE LIVING WATER !

**OBJECTIVE:** Women will be equipped to “sprinkle” the living water by sharing their faith.

**SCRIPTURAL EMPHASIS:** John 7:37-38 On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from him.”



**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:** Retreat on evangelism. We suggest basing the devotional focus on “Becoming a Contagious Christian.” The video and book (for your speaker) could be purchased by your PWOC or borrowed from another PWOC or local church.

**DECORATIONS:** Use watering cans as centerpieces, accented with spring flowers, ivy, and gardening tools.

**FAVOR:** Have your crafty ladies make wooden watering can magnets for the ladies. If possible, these could be partially done ahead of time and finished up at the retreat as a craft project.

**SESSION SUGGESTIONS:** Adjust to fit your schedule.

Friday PM:

\* Sprinkle the Living Water: Introduce the retreat with a mixer and a personal testimony, perhaps from the speaker, and possibly a craft time.

Saturday: Divide the day into three sessions:

\* Sprinkle God’s Love: Include the short (10-15 minutes) opening segment with Bill Hybels from the Contagious Christian video to set the tone of why we witness – because God loves everybody so much.

\* Sprinkle From Your Heart: Session on how to work up a five-minute personal testimony. A good testimony starter guide is in Nav Press “Design for Discipleship” book 2, chapter 5 “Witnessing for Christ.”

\* Sprinkle With Style: Complete the Contagious Christian survey on our evangelistic styles. Knowing your style can be freeing and empowering.

Intersperse the sessions with the Woman at the Well dramas, a mixer, and perhaps special music (Suggestions are “Fill My Cup, Lord” or “You’ll Never Thirst” by Anointed.) The drama could be critiqued, discussing the woman’s evangelistic style. The Woman at the Well part 2 drama can be used at the retreat or, if the Lord leads you, at a future program. End with a challenge for the ladies to pray for courage and opportunities to share their testimony using their style.

## The Woman at the Well - Part I

*(Two Samaritan women enter the room carrying water jars)*

**Sarah:** Good evening. I don't believe we've met.

**Deborah:** No, we haven't. I'm new here.

**Sarah:** You must be the wife of young Simon. I knew he went to your hometown for the wedding, but I've been out of town nursing a sick relative. I'm so sorry I wasn't here to greet you properly. My name is Sarah.

**Deborah:** I'm honored to meet you, Sarah. My name is Deborah.

**Sarah:** How are you holding up? I know you must find it difficult to move from your home to a town filled with people you don't know.

**Deborah:** Thank you for asking. I'm fine. My husband's parents have been very kind to me, and my husband is a kind man.

**Sarah:** Well, I am so happy to hear that, though I do sense a note of sadness in your voice. You must miss your parents.

**Deborah:** Oh Sarah, it isn't that I'm unhappy. I'm sure I will be fine. It's just that I do miss my family terribly. And I miss my friend, Leah, so much. We used to talk about everything.

**Sarah:** My dear, I know just how you feel. I, too, used to feel very lonely here.

**Deborah:** You did? Why did you feel lonely?

**Sarah:** Well, it's a long story.

**Deborah:** Please. Please tell me.

**Sarah:** Deborah, my life here was not always the way it is now. Just like you, I came here to Sychar full of hope. I was married to a man who was kind, but he died shortly after we were married. After that I was married four more times and, through death or divorce, lost all four husbands. By then I was so desperate that I wound up living with a man not my husband. I was so ashamed. I had never

had time to make any real friends, and the “friends” I had quickly left me. No one wanted to speak to me at all. I was so lonely.

**Deborah:** Oh I am so sorry. But you say things have changed since then?

**Sarah:** Yes, they have, praise the Lord. It all started that day that Jesus came to town.

**Deborah:** Who is this Jesus? Tell me. What happened!

**Sarah:** Funny to think of it now, but it happened right here.

**Deborah:** You mean right here at this well?

**Sarah:** Yes, Jacob’s well. That day I came to the well, as usual, at noon, you know, to avoid the other women. They always made me feel unwelcome. That particular day I had felt especially lonely and, well, tired. Tired of my life. It was so hot that day that by the time I walked to the well, I felt like I could drink a whole pitcher of water. Coming up to the well I was so wrapped up in my own misery that I didn’t notice him at first.

**Deborah:** You mean . . . Jesus.

**Sarah:** Yes. He startled me by asking for a drink of water. I was shocked. Not only was he a stranger, he was Jewish. You know how they feel about us Samaritans. I pointed this out to him and he surprised me again by saying, “If you only knew what a wonderful gift God has for you, and who I am, you would be asking ME for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.” Naturally I was confused, but intrigued by him. I asked him how HE was going to draw water with no bucket and if he thought he was better than our ancestor Jacob, who drank from this well and passed it down to us. He replied that the water from Jacob’s well would not permanently quench thirst, but that the water HE gave would not only quench thirst, but would become like a perpetual spring of water within, watering forever with eternal life.

Right then I remembered how thirsty I was and how I hated coming to the well at noon all alone. I asked him for this water. Instead of giving me the water, he asked me to go get my husband. Then he proceeded to tell me that I had been married five times and the man I now had was not my husband.

**Deborah:** How could he have known that!?

**Sarah:** I was so startled by that remark that I tried to change the subject. I said, "You must be a prophet, so tell me this: our forefathers worshipped here, but you Jews claim Jerusalem is the only place to worship." Jesus then confused me even more by saying that one day it wouldn't matter WHO we are or WHERE we worship, but HOW we worship. He said God was seeking people right then who would worship Him in spirit and in truth. I said, "Well, at least I know the Messiah will come one day, and he will explain all this to us." Guess what he said then.

**Deborah:** I can't guess. Tell me!!!

**Sarah:** He said that he was the Messiah.

**Deborah:** What? No way!

**Sarah:** By then I knew it must be true. After all, he knew all about me. I left my water jar and ran as quickly as I could all the way back to town. I had to tell everyone what had happened. They were so curious that they followed me back here and listened to Jesus, just as I had. We were so excited we begged him to stay and tell us more. He stayed only two days, but in that time many of us came to believe that he was truly the Messiah. Nothing has been the same since then. The man I was living with was one of those who believed in Jesus. He decided to marry me and we have been very happy together. I am not lonely anymore, and there is such joy in my heart. I understand what Jesus meant about the living water and I want everyone to have an opportunity to believe in Jesus. Jesus said that if we believed in him we would be saved and have eternal life with him.

**Deborah:** Sarah, I don't really understand all you are telling me, but I would like to know more about what Jesus said.

**Sarah:** Deborah, I realize this is a lot to take in all at one time. Why don't we meet again and we will talk more. And if you like I will take you with me to the meeting the believers have. We would love to have you come. Now I must be getting home to prepare the evening meal.

**Deborah:** You are right. I too need to go. You have given me much to think about. I would like to know more. Thank you for sharing with me. See you tomorrow.

**Sarah:** Yes, see you tomorrow. God bless you.

## The Woman at the Well, Part II

*(Two Samaritan women enter the room carrying water jars)*

**Deborah:** Sarah, good to see you today. It seems like forever since I've seen you. I had a wonderful visit with my parents back in my hometown.

**Sarah:** Yes, Deborah, it is good to see you too. I have missed you, though I know it has been good for you to visit with your relatives. How are your parents doing?

**Deborah:** They are well, thank you. (pause) You know, Sarah, I cannot help but think about our first meeting. It happened almost a year ago right here at this well.

**Sarah:** How could I forget? I am sure the Lord must have arranged it!

**Deborah:** You told me about Jesus and how he offered you living water. I was so confused.

**Sarah:** I can sympathize with that feeling. You can imagine how confused I was when a perfect stranger, a JEWISH stranger, offered me, a Samaritan, water. Not to mention living water. And then he told me all about myself – the five husbands and that I was living with a man not my husband.

**Deborah:** Yes, and that he was the Messiah. It is so hard to believe the Messiah has actually come during our lifetime. We are so blessed.

**Sarah:** I also remember the first time I took you to our believer's meeting. Everyone greeted you and loved you so much. They could tell the Holy Spirit was working on your heart. Sure enough, within a month, you had confessed your belief in Jesus and we baptized you in the river. What a happy day that was.

**Deborah:** And now my husband and his family are believers as well. How we prayed for them.

**Sarah:** I remember. Speaking of prayer, how about your parents? How did they respond when you told them about Jesus? We've been lifting them up in prayer for so long now.

**Deborah:** Sarah, that is what I wanted to tell you! It is so wonderful! They DID listen and they DID believe. I am so happy. The Holy Spirit had been preparing them all along. They had heard some stories about Jesus, so seeds had been planted. They could not wait to pass on the good news to my other relatives.

**Sarah:** Praise the Lord! He is good! I am so happy for you, Deborah. Come on, let's hurry and go home. I need to get ready for tonight's meeting. They will be so overjoyed at your news.

**Deborah:** You are right. Let's do hurry. See you tonight, my friend. God bless you!

