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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for March 15, 2020

3rd Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [John 4:5-42](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Shares God's Living Water* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**ASK** (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- Have you ever been thirsty? Can you tell me what it is like to be thirsty? (*Mouth and throat gets dry; you just really want something to drink*)
- That was a very good explanation of what it means to be thirsty. Thank you.
- Can you now tell me what helps you be NOT thirsty? (Water, Gatorade, Juice, etc.)
- Those are all good answers. But what if you were really thirsty and I gave you...oh, I don't know...some crackers...Would that help your thirst? (No!)
- Why not? [*pause for answers*] It'd only make you thirstier? Really?
- Ok, what if I gave you...a pile of salt! Would that help? No? Are you *sure*? (Noooo! It would not help!)
- So what would happen if we kept drinking and eating things that didn't help our thirst? What would happen to us?
- You're right... We would not feel very good. We might even die(!).

**TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- So this "thirsty" word mostly gets used in the way we just talked about: Our throats and mouths get dry and maybe raw -- and we need something cool and wet to make it better.
- And if we don't drink something or we drink the wrong thing, then our bodies don't do too well. We don't feel well.

- In a different way, our heart and mind and soul can also get thirsty for God's love.
- But you know what we sometimes do? We sometimes try to give our hearts, minds, and souls something else for that thirst.
- And that doesn't work out very well for us just like eating crackers and piles of salt doesn't help a thirsty person.
- In today's scripture story, that is the kind of thirst that Jesus is talking about with the woman at the well.
- The woman has been giving things to her thirsty heart, mind and soul that left her feeling not very good.
- And Jesus knows this.
- Which is why he tells her, "Ask for living water so that you'll never be thirsty again."

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- And you know what? Because the woman at the well listened to Jesus, it helped her to know what her heart, mind and soul needed.
- Which made her so excited that she went and shared with everyone who was near her what she had learned.
- And that led to all of the people in the town choosing to go listen to Jesus.
- So Jesus stayed there for two more days to talk to them about how they could receive God's love.
- The same thing is true for us: As we listen to and learn from Jesus about God's love and healing, then we can better receive God's living water and then share it with those around us.
- That's the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who teaches us about your living water.**

**...who teaches us about your living water.**

**Help us to receive and then share...**

**Help us to receive and then share...**

**...your living water.**

**...your living water.**

**Thank you and Amen.**