

## Kid's Slot –April 9-15

### Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

**OVERVIEW:** We need Jesus in our hearts. • Students will learn that God left a void in our hearts only Jesus can fill.

**PREPARATION:** Paper & Markers for each child, Bibles

**BIBLE STORY & VERSE:** John 4:4-26, Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

**ICEBREAKER:**

- What's your favorite kind of donut?

**READ: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

**LIFE APPLICATION:**

**Read John 4:4-26**

1. What was the woman doing when she met Jesus?
2. What did Jesus ask the woman to give him?
3. What did Jesus offer the woman?
4. Why did the woman need Jesus?
5. How can we receive Jesus in our hearts?

## Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Have you ever wondered why there's a hole in the center of a donut? It turns out there are several tall tales floating around to explain the donuts' trademark hole.

The most likely story, however, comes from an old sea captain named Hanson Gregory, whose mother made the cakes when she was a boy. Young Hanson complained to his mom that the center of the cakes never cooked all the way through, and he suggested she poke a hole in them. She laughed and did as her son asked, and from then on, always made donuts with holes. Gregory loved to tell tall tales, but his story holds enough weight, there's a plaque in his hometown of Rockport, Maine, crediting him with inventing the hole in the donut in 1847.

Donuts have remained a popular treat with kids and adults ever since they were first invented. They're sweet and delicious and filling, in spite of the missing dough in the middle. This morning, I'd like to add one more reason for our admiration of donuts: they're a lot like us. We have a hole inside each of us. It's not something you can see with an X-ray or CAT Scan, but it's there. God put an emptiness and a longing in each one of us for a specific purpose: he wanted us to find Jesus. Jesus is the only thing that can satisfy that longing for love we all have and complete our lives.

Jesus once met a woman who had tried in vain to fill that hole with other things. Then one day Jesus came along and showed her what she had been missing all along.

**READ JOHN 4:4-26**

If the Samaritan woman seems a bit surprised that Jesus would even talk to her, she had good reason. Samaritans and Jews did not get along. The Jews looked down on Samaritans and went out of their way to ignore them. But the woman soon realized this was no ordinary man. Jesus was offering her something she had longed for all her life. She had

an emptiness, a thirst and a hunger she had never been able to satisfy through human love. What she needed was God's love.

God created us to have a relationship with him. That was his original purpose way back in Genesis before sin wrecked God's plan. We were separated from God, but God left that hole inside to create a longing in us, hoping all of us would find and turn to our Creator. Jesus is the only thing that can satisfy our hunger.

The sad thing is, in our pride and stubbornness, humans have tried to fill the hole with anything and everything except God. Just look at the commercials on TV and you'll see what I mean. Most commercials are aimed at that hunger, that longing, and they give us all sorts of ways to try to satisfy the discontentedness. People try to fill the hole with human love, with popularity, with money, with possessions.

All it takes is a quick look at the people who show up on reality programs to see how inadequate all of these solutions are. You can have all the money in the world, fancy cars, a nice house, and huge popularity, and you can still be unhappy. The longing inside you will never be filled by the things of this world. There's nothing wrong with having things; but if you're counting on things to fill that emptiness inside, you will always come up hungry.

Jesus is the bread of life. He is living water. If we have Jesus and live each day for him, we will have all we need to fill the emptiness inside. Only Jesus can forgive our sins and give us a new life. Only Jesus can give us something truly eternal.

As we get ready for Easter, that little hole in the donut is a great reminder of the little hole inside us. It's the hunger that says, "There's got to be something more to this life." There is something more. There's Jesus, the Son of the living God, who died for you so you could have a relationship with Him.

### Construction Paper Donuts

**What You Need:** Construction Paper, scissors, markers/crayons

**What You Do:**

- Have the kids cut out "donuts" with construction paper.
- Use markers to color and decorate the donuts, or use glitter, other construction paper, or other craft materials to make the decorations on top.
- Don't forget the hole. Send the holes home with the kids with today's scripture reference written on it.

### Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- *"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the person who goes to him for safety." Psalm 34:8 (NIRV)*
- Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in different voices (Ex: a whisper, loud, under water, like a cowboy, etc)!
- Let the kids take turns finding the verse in the Bible.

### RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids' videos available to you on [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org) – it's free!