

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



for Children

Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Summer 2014

Living Water

John, chapter 4

Samaria was between Judea and Galilee. Jewish people would not travel through Samaria because the Samaritans had married non-Jews and built their own temple on Mount Gerizim. The Jews felt the Samaritans were outside of God's grace and unworthy of His favor. Despite these bad feelings between the Jewish and Samaritan people, Jesus traveled through Samaria, and a very wonderful thing happened.

Jesus and His disciples came to the village of Sychar. Jesus was tired, so at about noon He sat down beside the well of Jacob to rest and sent His disciples into town to buy food. A woman of Samaria came to draw water from the well. This poor woman had had a very difficult life.

Jesus spoke to her:

"Give me a drink."

The woman was surprised! A Jewish man was speaking to her! She asked, "How is it that you—a Jew—are asking me—a Samaritan—for a drink of water?"

Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked and He would have given you Living Water."

The woman was very confused. She said, "Sir, you have no way to draw water, and the well is deep. Where do you get living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us this well."

Jesus said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give will never be thirsty. The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water so I won't be thirsty, and I won't have to come here to draw water."

Jesus told her to go and get her husband. She said that she didn't have a husband. Jesus said that was true because she had had five husbands, and the man she was with now was not her husband. The woman told Jesus that she knew Jesus was a prophet and asked Him where people ought to worship, on Mount Gerizim or in Jerusalem.

Jesus answered, "Woman, believe me. The time is coming when people won't worship on this mountain or in Jerusalem. True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and people must worship Him in spirit and truth."

The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, who is called the Christ. When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jesus told her, "I who speak to you am He."

Just then, the disciples came back. They were surprised that Jesus was talking to the woman, but they didn't ask Him why.

The woman left her water jar at the well and went into town. She told the people, "Come and see the Man who told me everything I ever did. Isn't this the Christ?" When they had heard this, many of the people went out of town to see Jesus.

Many of the Samaritan people believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony. When they came to Jesus, they asked Him to stay with them, so Jesus stayed there for two days. After they had heard Jesus, many more Samaritans believed because of His words. They told the woman, "We don't believe now because of what you said, but we have heard for ourselves, and we believe that this is the Savior of the world!"



"Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well" by Guercino

Toddlers

Through Three Years



Jesus Loves You

Jesus loves you very much. He came down from heaven to save you. He is God's Son and He was born long ago. When He was grown, He died on the cross for your sins. But He didn't stay dead! He came back alive and went to heaven to be with God His Father. He wants you to always love and trust in Him. Here's a song about Jesus:

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Anna B. Warner



Water Is Wonderful

Tots

Four-Six Years

Did you know that every living thing on Earth needs water? Every plant, every animal, every person needs water to live.

Have you ever seen a plant that didn't get enough water? Maybe your mom forgot to water a houseplant, or maybe the grass in your lawn doesn't always get enough water in the summer. Without water, plants start to droop and wilt. After a while, if they don't get a drink, plants will die.

Animals need water, too. If animals don't drink enough water, they will get sick. If they still don't get water, they will die. If you have a pet, it's very important to make sure your pet gets plenty of fresh water to drink, especially when the weather is hot.

When you run and play outside on a hot summer day, what happens? You get thirsty! God made your body so perfectly that it knows when it needs water. When you get thirsty, you take a drink to give your body the water that it needs. If you didn't drink anything at all, ever, your body would die.

God did an amazing thing when He made your body! He made so many different systems to work together to keep you healthy and growing. Remember to thank Him for making your body, and for making you thirsty when your body needs water, and for making good water for you to drink!

Tykes

Ages Seven-Ten

Rock of Ages

After God had written the Ten Commandments with His finger on the two tablets of stone, Moses came down from Mount Sinai. Moses really wanted to see God's glory, so he asked God to show him. God answered, "You can't see My face, for no man shall see my face and live." But then God made a way for Moses to see a glimpse of God's glory.

And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Exodus 33:21-23

Jesus is sometimes called the Rock of Ages. The old familiar hymn "Rock of Ages" speaks of Jesus. We are hidden in Jesus, washed from our sins with His precious blood. His sacrifice paid double for all our sin, and He has made us white and pure. Some people say that the hymn's author wrote it while sheltering from a storm in a cleft of rock in Burrington Combe, in England, but that story has never been verified.

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.*

Augustus M. Toplady



Rock of Ages, Burrington Combe, North Somerset, England

Tweens

Eleven-Twelve Years

Need vs. Choose

Jesus passed through Samaria on His way from Judea to Galilee. The Bible says that Jesus “needed” to go through Samaria. He HAD to pass through that region.

He [Jesus] left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria.

John 4:3-4

The Samaritan people had long been hated by the Jews. The people of Samaria had married non-Jews after they had been conquered by the Assyrians. They had also built a temple on Mount Gerizim and no longer went to the temple in Jerusalem to worship. These were both unforgivable offenses to the Jewish people.

Jewish travelers wouldn't even go through Samaria. They wouldn't associate with low-life half-breeds who didn't worship at the temple in Jerusalem. They wouldn't defile themselves by getting the dust of Samaria on their feet. Instead they crossed the Jordan River (red line), traveled north through Perea, and crossed the river again into Galilee.



But Jesus went right through Samaria (green line). He needed to. Jesus had a divine appointment with a woman of questionable reputation at the well of Jacob. There He met a lady who had a need, whether she was aware of her need or not. She needed Living Water—Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One of God.

And Jesus NEEDED to go through Samaria. He didn't just choose to go there on a whim. He met the woman's need for Living Water. He needed to meet her to tell her that He was the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Double Payment

Have you ever loaned money to a friend? Do you expect your friend to pay you back the amount that is owed, or twice that amount?

If a friend owes you a hundred dollars and pays you back two hundred, that is a pretty amazing gift. If an ENEMY owes you a hundred dollars and pays you back two hundred, that is a really unexpected occurrence.

But, if YOU owe your ENEMY a hundred dollars, and some other person repays your enemy two hundred dollars for your debt, that is going far above any expectation you could imagine. The other person doesn't owe the debt, and he certainly should not repay double what is owed!

That's exactly what happened at the cross.

We were the enemies of God. We owed a debt far greater than we could ever conceive of paying. We were mired in sin, not even aware of the staggering burden of debt piled around us. We were dead in sin, the Scripture says.

And God didn't leave us there. He wouldn't abandon us to eternal death and separation from Him. He loved us too much for that.

So He sent His Son to this broken world. To be born as a baby. To learn to walk and talk and eat. To grow to adulthood. To live a sinless life, though He was tempted to sin. To gather a few uneducated fishermen and unpopular tax collectors as friends and students. To work great miracles, showing the power of God. To be despised by the leaders of God's people, the religious leaders who wouldn't accept His teaching. To be condemned to death on a tree. To rise victorious from death. To return to the Father in glory.

For you. For me. For our sin debt. He didn't owe it, but He obediently paid it. He paid double what was owed! And He brought us from death to life, the true life that never ends.

Our sin debt is doubly paid, and eternal life is ours, because of the sacrifice of Jesus, who owed nothing but paid the double payment.

Because of this, we live at peace with God. We are no longer enemies of God, but His dear children. No more strangers and outcasts, but holy and acceptable in His sight. We have received of the Lord's hand double for all our sins. That is true comfort!

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Isaiah 40:1-2

Teens



“Christ, Messiah” by Carl Bloch

A girl with a bad reputation. A boy who makes bad choices. Do you know someone like this? Maybe her family isn't exactly the most put together. Maybe he has a drug habit. Maybe he hangs with a bad crowd. Maybe she's had a few too many boyfriends.

Bad, Bad, Bad, Bad Girl

The woman at the well in Samaria wasn't a lily-white lady. She had had FIVE husbands, and the man she was living with now wasn't even her husband. Maybe she was afraid and desperate, so she was willing to live with a man who wouldn't marry her. At least, she may have thought, she wasn't living on the streets.

The women of the village probably knew this woman's past. They may have whispered about her with their friends. They may have avoided her company. They may have walked to the well in the cool early-morning or late-evening air making snarky comments as they chatted. They may have made the poor woman's life so miserable that she chose to walk alone to the well at noon, in the heat of the day, carrying a heavy water jar, rather than endure their company.

The men of the village probably knew this woman's past. They may have made crude jokes about who would be husband #6. They may have tried to be too friendly, since obviously she was a woman who would "put out." They may have kept their wives or girlfriends or sisters from associating with her.

We don't know her past, other than what the Scripture says about her, but it doesn't paint a pretty picture.

Jesus knew every intimate detail of this poor woman's past. He didn't avoid her problems. He went right to the heart of the trouble, and that trouble was sin. Not sin-with-a-little-s (five husbands, living with a man) but SIN-with-all-caps (sinful nature). And He didn't condemn her for it! Jesus knew she was a sinner and He didn't avoid meeting her at the well; in fact, He went out of His way to be there at noon when she arrived alone to fill her water jar.

Jesus told her He gives the Living Water, the water that will quench thirst forever. Of course, the lady asked for some of this wonderful water. She'd never have to lug a water jug out to this well again!

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." When she confessed that she didn't have a husband, Jesus told her of her past husbands and her current living arrangements.

Jesus addressed her sin. And He forgave her for it. He told her that He was the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. He loved her, though she was a sinner. He didn't excuse her sin. He loved her in spite of it.

Today, Jesus loves sinners. Bad girls, girls with a past. Bad boys, boys who have made bad choices. Jesus loves them and He died for them, just as He died for you. You may never have done really bad things, but your sin is just as awful in God's eyes as those terrible things. Jesus loves sinners, and He asks you to do the same.

Tell people about Jesus, the Messiah, the Living Water that quenches thirst forever. Don't excuse sin, but love sinners in spite of it. Witness of the great grace and love of God to sinners and let people know that there is hope and life and forgiveness in Jesus, that there is freedom from slavery to sin and death.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

Please talk to your parents before you befriend any person who is doing drugs, or living in sexual sin, or living a sinful lifestyle. It's a situation that must be entered carefully and with prayer, and ONLY with your parents' involvement and approval. PLEASE, be careful! Satan will try to tempt you to join, rather than drawing the other person out of sin. Always, always, be accountable to someone you trust: a parent, a pastor, someone who will help keep you from falling into sin.

If you have a bad reputation, or if you are living a sinful lifestyle, PLEASE talk to a Christian about it. God's grace and Jesus' blood covers every sin that you have committed. There is hope and there is new life in Jesus. The Gospel is for YOU. Believe it. The Living Water will wash you white and pure, and you will live at peace with God. He loves you, more than you can ever know. His heart is for you. His desire is for you. His blood is for you. Turn from sin and live.



"Woman at the Well" by Carl Heinrich Bloch

How many water droplets are on this page?

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 1 & + & 12 & + & 3 & - & 1 & - & 7 & + & 16 & + & 4 \\
 - & 4 & + & 8 & + & 7 & + & 14 & - & 3 & - & 10 & + & 15 \\
 + & 10 & - & 13 & + & 15 & + & 13 & + & 2 & - & 20 & - & 2
 \end{array}$$

How Much Water?

God made our bodies with a lot of water in them.

Add and subtract the water glasses to find out how much water a person contains.

An adult human body = _____ % water?

Cryptogram!

Each letter stands for a different letter of the alphabet. D=P, E=G, and T=S.

Replace the other letters. What did Jesus say to the woman at the well?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
						E									D			T							

K O Y P L K Y M K O L K C S T O L Q Q G E C S Y
 O C G S T O L Q Q W Y C H O C G L P Y Q Q
 J Z P L K Y M S P T D M C H E C H E B D C H K J
 Y S Y M Q L T K C H E Q C Z Y

Answer Key: page 7

Word Search

J E R U S A L E M T A R
 W V H S C A C I C O A C
 L E O A P K M N T H G H
 I I L E I I O A C E W R
 F L O L K S R Y R A B I
 E E M H G J S I T I K S
 C B U U S K Z E T Z A T
 K O K S X I R B M X X Z
 N J J B M T E H P O R P
 I A T A L I V I N G I Y
 R F D N A M O W O N T U
 D Y K D T R U T H J P X

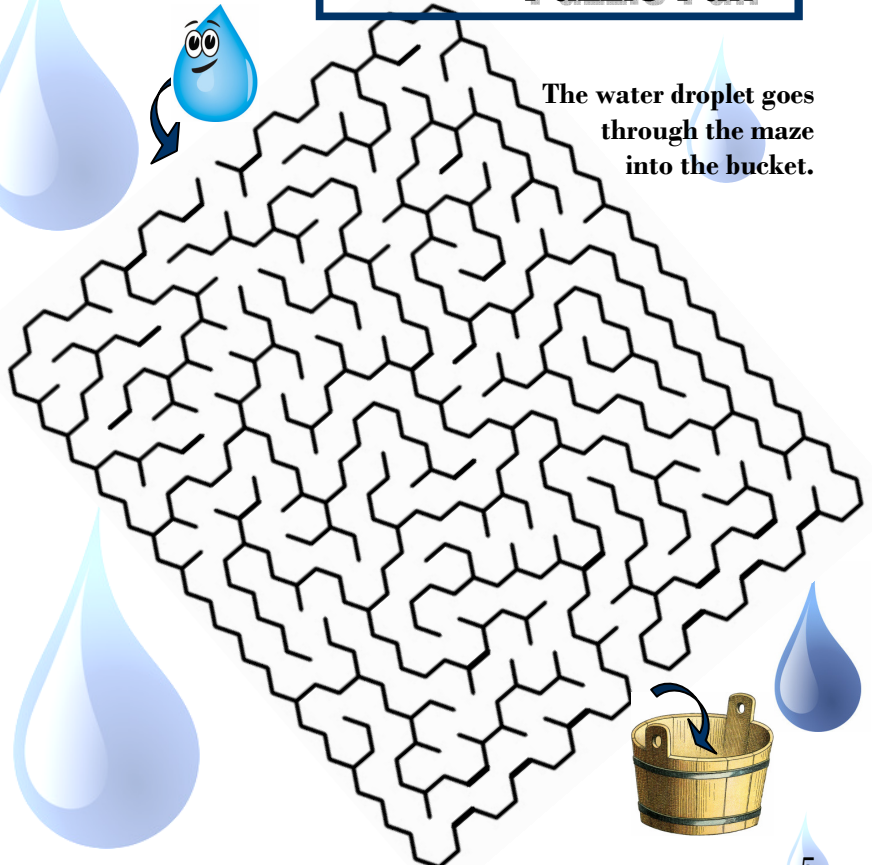
BELIEVE
 CHRIST
 DRINK
 GERIZIM
 HUSBAND
 JAR

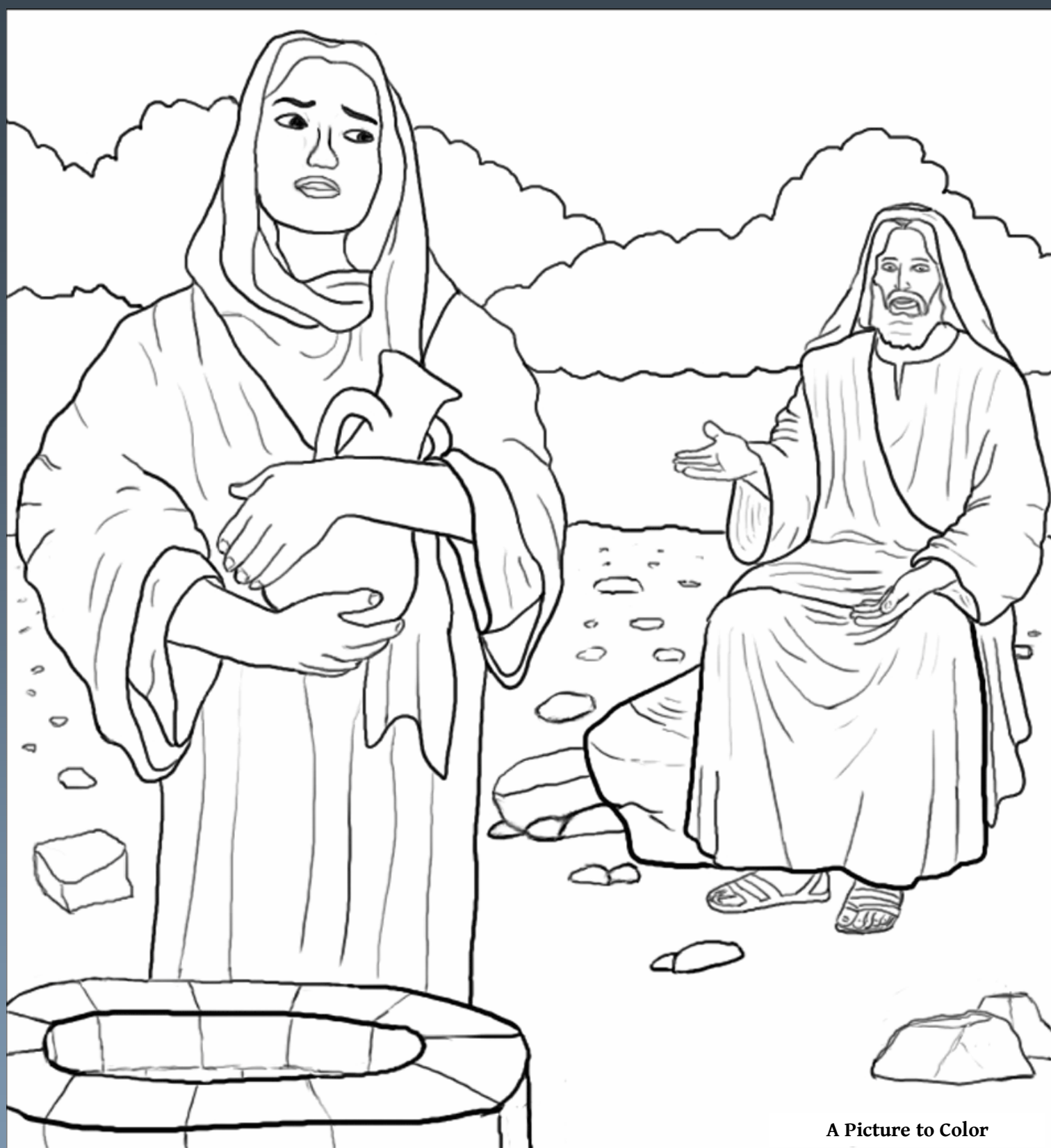
JERUSALEM
 LIFE
 LIVING
 MESSIAH
 PROPHET
 SAMARIA

SPIRIT
 SYCHAR
 TRUTH
 WATER
 WELL
 WOMAN

LIVING WATER Puzzle Fun

The water droplet goes through the maze into the bucket.





A Picture to Color

*Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.
John 4:7*

Spring Up, O Well

I've got a riv-er of life flow ing out of me. Makes the lame to
walk and the blind to see. O pens pri son doors, sets the cap tives free.
I've got a riv er of li fe flow ing out of me. Spring up, O well—
with in my soul. — Spring up, O well, — and make me whole. — Spring up, O
well, — and give to me — that life — a bun-dant - ly. —

Puzzle Answer Key

Cryptogram!
The water that I shall
give him shall be in him
a well of water springing
up into
everlasting life. (John 4:14)

How many water drops? 20

How Much Water? 609

Dear God,

Thank You for sending Jesus through Samaria to speak to the woman at the well. Thank You for sending Jesus to this broken world to save sinners.

We are sinners, Father, and we acknowledge our sin before You. Only You can save us from ourselves! Only You can wash us white as snow by the blood of Your Son! Jesus, the Rock of Ages, paid double for our sins when He shed His blood on Calvary's cross.

Help us to love sinners, Father. Give us hearts to serve others and to show compassion to those who have difficult lives. Let us share Your love and light with people all around us, especially people who don't know You. Let Jesus be seen in our daily lives as we live and walk in this world. Show us a tiny bit of Your glory every day. Let us see You in the small details and let us glorify Your name.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Christian Monthly for Children Vol. III—No. 2

Online Subscription: Suggested donation to christianmonthlyalca.org

Send ideas for publication to:

Lois Matson, Editor
CHRISTIAN MONTHLY
PO Box 2996
Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA

E-mail: cm@apostoliclutheran.org
Phone: (360) 904-6951

Address subscriptions, payments,

and Book Concern orders to:

Anders and Clara Sundqvist, Managers
THE BOOK CONCERN

PO Box 2126
Battle Ground, WA 98604-2126 USA

Phone: (360) 896-7344
E-mail: books@apostoliclutheran.org

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

www.apostoliclutheran.org

Western Mission: western@apostoliclutheran.org

Eastern Mission: eastern@apostoliclutheran.org

Foreign Mission: foreign@apostoliclutheran.org

The *Christian Monthly for Children* is published quarterly for electronic distribution by:

Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern
19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606

For Parents:

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

The river of the water of life flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb. The tree of life is there, bearing its fruit and its leaves. There is no night there, for the Lord gives the light. What a day that will be when we arrive in the heavenly city!

Water. Trees. Light. God uses things that we see in nature every day to give us a picture of what heaven will be like. We have no ability to envision the glorious realities of heaven, and our finite minds cannot comprehend eternity, but God gives us glimpses in His Word of the wonder and beauty of them. His love for His children is beyond comprehension. His desire is that all people would be saved.

God's love for your children is greater than your own. Teach your children of Jesus and His love, of the atoning work that He accomplished for their sakes. Explain the perfect demands of God's Law and the perfect payment that fulfilled that Law for them. Read Bible stories and sing songs. Give them a knowledge of Scripture. Bring them to church, but don't depend on pastors and Sunday School teachers only to teach your child. And pray always that God will preserve living faith in their hearts, and that they will hear the voice of the Spirit calling.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.

And let him that heareth say, Come.

And let him that is athirst come.

And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17

