

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING
28 JUNE 2018



Through the cross, God's love changes everything.

THEME BIBLE READING

Take time to read and reflect on this Bible passage and choose how you will tell the story in your own way.

Scripture **John 4:1-42** **Woman at the Well**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR REFLECTION

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." **John 4:13-15 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Today:

Dear God, lead us to drink the water that gives eternal life in the name of Jesus. Amen.

A Mealtime Prayer for Today:

Lord, as we are nourished this day with food and water, may we remember the woman at the well and be strengthened to go out and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you drink the life-giving water of Jesus and never be thirsty again.



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INTERACTIVE LEARNING

[YouTube Hymn for Today](#) 

[The Well](#)

by Casting Crowns



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss today and later in your home or small group:

- In Jesus' day, Jews did not talk to Samaritans. Jesus shocked the disciples by speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well. Have you ever spoken to someone who is different than you? What happened?
- The Samaritan woman ran to the village and told people about Jesus? Have you told someone about Jesus? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS

Reflect on today's reading.

Choose one of four ways to retell the reading in your own words. You may choose to tell it as it is and portray the role of Jesus and the woman at the well or choose to retell the story in a modern day setting using one of the following venues:

1. **Puppets:** Use puppets to retell the story or relate the story to your life today.
2. **Signing Scripture:** Go to this link to find key words to sign. <http://www.aslpro.com/>
3. **Creative Movement:** Use the YouTube link above and engage in creative dance movements as the song is sung.
4. **Spontaneous Melodrama:** Have one person read John 4:1-42 with expression while others are re-enacting what they hear through motions.

SERVICE

There are many people in the world who do not have clean water to drink. They walk miles everyday with buckets so that they can drink and use clean water. Make a list of the many places and ways we use water daily. How would your life change if you did not have water that is safe to drink? Is there a ministry in your congregation that donates to those who are in need of food and water?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the Christian tradition, blessing is a daily ritual. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism for the head of the household to teach the members of the household. There is a morning and evening blessing. Luther writes that we should make the sign of the cross when we get out of bed and when we go to bed.

Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or chest this week in the morning and in the evening and say: **God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.**
(Small Catechism)



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