Jesus is with us when we're lonely.

Bible Verse

"I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will
- learn that Jesus never leaves us alone,
- hear how Jesus befriended the lonely Samaritan woman,
- help Pockets realize that Jesus never leaves us, and
- thank Jesus for being with them.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ **Jesus talks to a Samaritan woman.**

John 4:4-30, 39

The Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well is a poignant picture of loneliness and rejection. To avoid awkward silences and accusing glances, she went to the well in the heat of midday, when no one else would be there. Imagine her surprise when Jesus talked openly with her—ignoring social taboos! He named her wrongdoing and then offered her eternal life. With amazement and joy, the woman ran to town and told everyone about the man she'd just met. Jesus had befriended a lonely heart and changed a life—and a town—forever.

Five- and six-year-olds understand loneliness. With Jesus as a forever friend, children can work through their feelings of loneliness and realize that they're never truly alone. Use this lesson to help children discover that Jesus will be with them, even when they're lonely.

Prayer

- Read Philippians 4:13.
- How does knowing that you can do "everything" through Jesus help when you are alone? How could this help your students?
- Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for reminding me that you are with me always. Please show me how to rely on you in all situations by…

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned…" handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	**Welcome!—**Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Heart Name Tags" (p. 158), markers, pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	**Option 1: See Through Me!—** Make oil pictures to show that Jesus sees their hearts.	Pie tin, cotton balls, clothespins, paper, crayons, baby oil, paper-bag smocks, newspapers	
	Option 2: Well Beings—Use paper bags and newspapers to build a well.	Paper grocery sacks, newspapers, pitcher, water	
	Option 3: Balancing Act— Balance cups on their heads as they walk along a line.	Paper cups, masking tape, newspaper	
	Pick Up Our Toys—Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	**Setting the Stage—**Search for friends in silent darkness.		
	Bible Song and Prayer Time—Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, basket of surprise cards from Lesson 10, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Hear how Jesus befriended a Samaritan woman in John 4:4-30, 39, and sip cups of water from a "well."	Bible, paper well from Option 2, paper cups, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story—Pass along "living water" from the well.	Paper cups, paper well from Option 2	
Closing	**Poor Me!—**Cheer Pockets with the news that Jesus is with her when she feels lonely.	Small stuffed animal	
	Never Alone—Scatter around the room and sing, and then gather to pray.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

■ Welcome!

SUPPLIES: *"Heart Name Tags" (p. 158), markers, pins or tape*

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned…" discussion. Ask questions such as "When did you feel Jesus' love?" and "How did you show other children that they're important?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.***
- Hand out the heart name tags children made in Lesson 10, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

◄BIBLE POINT

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "When do you feel lonely?" or "How can you help others who may be lonely?"

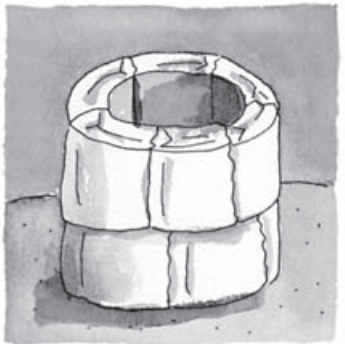
■ Option 1: See Through Me!

SUPPLIES: *pie tin, cotton balls, clothespins, paper, crayons, baby oil, paper-bag smocks, newspapers*

Before class, pour a small amount of baby oil into a pie tin. Help children clip cotton balls to clothespins to make daubers, and then cover the table with newspapers. Provide paper-bag smocks for children to wear during this activity.

Set out crayons, and give each child two sheets of paper. Instruct them to draw a picture of themselves on one sheet of paper and a heart on the other. Then have children use the daubers to spread baby oil on the picture of themselves. Lay the oiled drawing on top of the heart drawing and show children that they can see through the top paper! Explain that Jesus sees our hearts and knows when we're lonely. Say that today children will learn that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.*

◄BIBLE POINT



Option 2: Well Beings

SUPPLIES: *paper grocery sacks, newspapers, pitcher, water*

Set out newspapers and paper grocery sacks. Show children how to make large blocks by stuffing the paper sacks with crumpled newspapers, and sliding inverted bags on top of the filled bags. When children have made a good supply of blocks, allow them to build a round well, as shown in the margin. As they work, tell children that in today's Bible story they'll hear about a lonely woman who got more than water when she went to the well. Say that today children will learn that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.*

When the well is complete, place a clean pitcher of drinking water in the middle.

Option 3: Balancing Act

SUPPLIES: *paper cups, masking tape, newspaper*

Before children arrive, make an 8-foot masking tape line on the floor. Show children how to tear newspaper into strips and crumple the strips into little balls. Have each child put three balls in a paper cup and then place the cup on his or her head. Show children how to balance the cups on their heads and walk along the tape line as if it were a tightrope. Explain that in the Bible, women carried pitchers of water on their heads. Say that today children will learn that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.*

BIBLE POINT►

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: *CD player*

Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the *CD* to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the *CD*, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the *CD*, vary the names you use each week.

SING

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.

There's [name] **picking up toys.**
There's [name] **picking up toys.**
There's [name] **picking up toys,**
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: *none*

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Say: **Our class is fun because we're all friends here. But sometimes we go places where we're not surrounded by friends. Let's do an activity to see what that's like. First, spread out so you're not standing near anyone.** Pause for children to follow your instructions. **Now, turn off the volume on your voice box so you can't make any noises. Close your eyes, and I'll turn off the lights so you can't see either. When I say "go," move around slowly, and gently try to join up with everyone in the class to make a giant blob. Remember, no noises and no peeking! Ready? Go!**

If your room doesn't get completely dark, use bandannas as blindfolds. When children are all joined together, turn on the lights, and have them form a circle and sit down. Then ask:

• **What was it like to try to find your friends?** (Hard; dark; kind of scary; almost impossible.)

• **How did you feel when you found the group?** (Glad; happy; relieved; super.)

Say: **Being lonely is kind of like looking for friends in the dark. It's a bad feeling! But that bad feeling goes away when we realize that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.* Let's get ready to hear a story about a woman who was very lonely until she met Jesus.**

◄**BIBLE POINT**

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: *Bible, basket of surprise cards from Lesson 10, CD player*

Set the basket of surprise cards that you made in Lesson 10 next to you. If you don't have surprise cards, follow the directions in the "Bible Song and Prayer Time" section of Lesson 10 for this activity. Bookmark **John 4:4-30, 39** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I'll choose someone to be the Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today's Bible helper, let's sing our Bible song. As we sing, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the *CD* to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.

Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the Jesus and me figures stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible helper for today.**

Identify the Bible helper, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible helper to bring you the Bible. Assist the Bible helper in opening the Bible to the marked place, and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible helper sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible helper today. Each week we'll have only one special Bible helper, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.***

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn how Jesus is with us when we're lonely. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, thank you for sending Jesus to be with us."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside for use next week, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.***

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: *Bible, paper well from Option 2, paper cups, CD player*

Bring a stack of paper cups, and gather children near the well that was built in Option 2. If you didn't use Option 2, you'll need a pitcher of drinking water and a picture of a well.

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Jesus Is With Us.* Hold up a Bible and say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of John in the Bible. Our *Bible Big Book* shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

The place where Jesus lived was dry and dusty like a desert. When people got hot and thirsty, they couldn't just turn on a faucet like we can. They had to pull water from a deep well, kind of like this one. Since we're talking about water today, I'll give each of you a cup of water for our story. Please set your cup in front of you until you hear Jesus speaking. Then take a little sip.

Pour water from the pitcher, and give each child a cup. Hold up the *Bible Big Book* so children can see pages 2 and 3. Then play "Living Water" (track 23) on the *CD*. When you hear Jesus speak, take a sip from your own cup to help cue the children.

When the track is over, turn off the CD player, and put the *Bible Big Book* out of sight.

Ask: • **Why was the Samaritan woman lonely?** (Because she didn't have any friends; because no one liked her; she was all alone.)

• **What did Jesus tell her?** (That he could give her living water; that he was the Messiah.)

• **What did the woman do when she found out Jesus was the Messiah?** (Went and told others about Jesus; ran back to town.)

Say: **When Jesus told the woman he could give her living water, he was talking about eternal life. When we accept God's love and forgiveness, he**

promises us eternal life in heaven. Jesus promises to be with us forever—even when we're lonely.

Ask: • **How can Jesus help you when you're lonely?** (He'll be my friend; his love will be with me; he'll help me feel better.)

Say: **We'll all be lonely sometimes. But when we feel that way, we can remember that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.* When the Samaritan woman discovered what a wonderful friend Jesus could be, she told everyone else about Jesus' love. Let's finish the water in our cups and remember that Jesus is our friend forever.**

◄BIBLE POINT

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: *paper cups, paper well from Option 2*

Have children take their cups and line up opposite the paper well from Option 2. Say: **When the Samaritan woman told others about Jesus, they believed in him. Let's see what it's like to pass on the good news that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.***

◄BIBLE POINT

Balance your empty paper cup on your head, and walk slowly to the well. Dip your cup in the water, and say to the next child in line: **Come and share this living water!** Have that child come, balancing the cup on his or her head. Pour your cup of water into his or her cup. Then have him or her call the next child and so on.

When the last child has poured the water back into your cup, form a circle. Say: **When Jesus told the Samaritan woman about living water, he was talking about being her friend forever. Our Bible verse, from Matthew 28:20, tells us that Jesus said ►"I am with you always." That's such a special verse! Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Bible verse.

◄BIBLE VERSE

Ask: • **Why did the woman at the well want to tell others about Jesus?** (Because she knew he was someone special; she was excited about Jesus' love; she wanted others to meet her friend.)

Say: **The Samaritan woman found a special friend in Jesus and then brought the townspeople to meet him. Soon, many of them believed in Jesus, too. They learned that Jesus is always with us.**

teacher tips

Remind children not to drink the water, since it will be passed from cup to cup.

The JESUS CONNECTION

Join the children as they stand in a circle.

Say: **Because Jesus is always with us, we never need to feel alone. While we're in our circle, let's show what it feels like to have someone with us. I'll start by saying ►*"Jesus is with us when we're lonely."* Then I'll hold the hand of the person next to me. We'll continue around the circle until everyone has had a chance to say that and until we're all holding hands.** When the children are finished, ask them to continue holding hands as you pray.

Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to be with us even when we feel as though we're all alone. Help us to be more like him by being friends to others, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

◄BIBLE POINT

Say: **We can share God's love with others, too. I wonder if Pockets knows that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.***

◄BIBLE POINT

Closing

■ Poor Me!

SUPPLIES: *small stuffed animal*

Before this activity, place a small stuffed animal in Pockets' pouch. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.

Teacher: Pockets, it looks like you've got yourself a special friend.

Pockets: *(Sadly)* Yeah, this is Sammy. I keep him with me when I'm feeling lonely. That way I don't feel so all alone.

Teacher: Why are you feeling lonely? You have lots of friends here!

Pockets: *(Sighing)* I know, but I was feeling lonely at kangaroo school. My friend Sarah didn't want to play with me because another kangaroo brought some really fun toys. *(Sadly)* They played together and left me out.

Teacher: Well, weren't there other kangaroos for you to play with?

Pockets: Yeah, but no one wanted to play in the sandbox with me. They all were playing Hop-a-long Tag. So I played all by myself.

Teacher: *(Hugs Pockets.)* Oh, Pockets, we all feel left out and alone sometimes. But we learned something today that might help cheer you up. Who can tell Pockets about the lonely woman in our story today? *(Call on children to tell Pockets about the Samaritan woman and how Jesus was with her. Have children tell Pockets that* ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.)*

Pockets: That woman at the well sounded lonely, just like me. And Jesus came and was her friend?

Teacher: He sure was! And he'll be your friend, too! He's even better company than Sammy!

Pockets: Hmmm. I guess it's OK to be alone when Jesus is with me. That way I'm never really alone at all! Did you hear that, Sammy? I'm never alone!

Teacher: The next time you see someone who's lonely, maybe you can tell that person that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.*

Pockets: That sounds like a good idea. Thanks for cheering me up, everyone. 'Bye now!

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Never Alone

SUPPLIES: *CD player*

Say: **I'm going to play a song that you can sing whenever you feel lonely. And to remind us that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely,* let's scatter all over the room and sit by ourselves as we sing.**

When children are seated, lead them in singing "I Am With You Always" (Matthew 28:20b) (track 20) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" with the *CD*.

"I am with you always,"
Said Lord Jesus.
While we work,
And while we play,
He is with us.

"I am with you always,"
Said Lord Jesus.
During the night
And during the day,
He is with us.

Thank you Lord,
For being here.
Hallelujah!
Thank you, Lord,
For staying near.
Hallelujah!

Say: ►***Jesus is with us when we're lonely.*** Have children form a tight circle. Pray: **Dear God, thank you that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.* Because he's there, we know we're never alone. Help us to be good friends to others when we see them feeling lonely. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned…" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.

For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Balloon Boppin' Fun

Give each child a blown-up balloon, and then have children form a large circle and stand facing away from the center. Call out a color, and allow children holding balloons of that color to turn around, take two steps in, and bop the balloons in the air and to each other using their hands and heads. Then call another balloon color, and instruct those children to move in and bop their balloons, too. Continue to call balloon colors until everyone has joined in the balloon boppin' fun. Point out that God's love brings us all together—no one is left out!

⚠ WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD— Be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons and dispose of them immediately. Balloons may contain latex.

Make to Take: The Road to Living Water

Before this activity, photocopy the "Road to Living Water" handout (p. 171), and cut apart the pictures. You'll need one for each child.

Set out the handouts, crayons, and resealable sandwich bags. Have each child color a picture and place it inside a sandwich bag. Help children seal the bags. Demonstrate how to put a drop of water on the outside of the bag on the picture of the woman at the well. Have children blow the water drop down the curvy road to town.

Treat to Eat: Bubblin' Water

Set out assorted fruits, such as mandarin orange slices, sliced grape halves, and pineapple chunks. Then pour lemon-lime soda into paper cups. Have children make their own bubbly treats by using toothpicks to drop fruits into their cups of soda. As children enjoy the refreshing snack, explain that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman something much better than water.

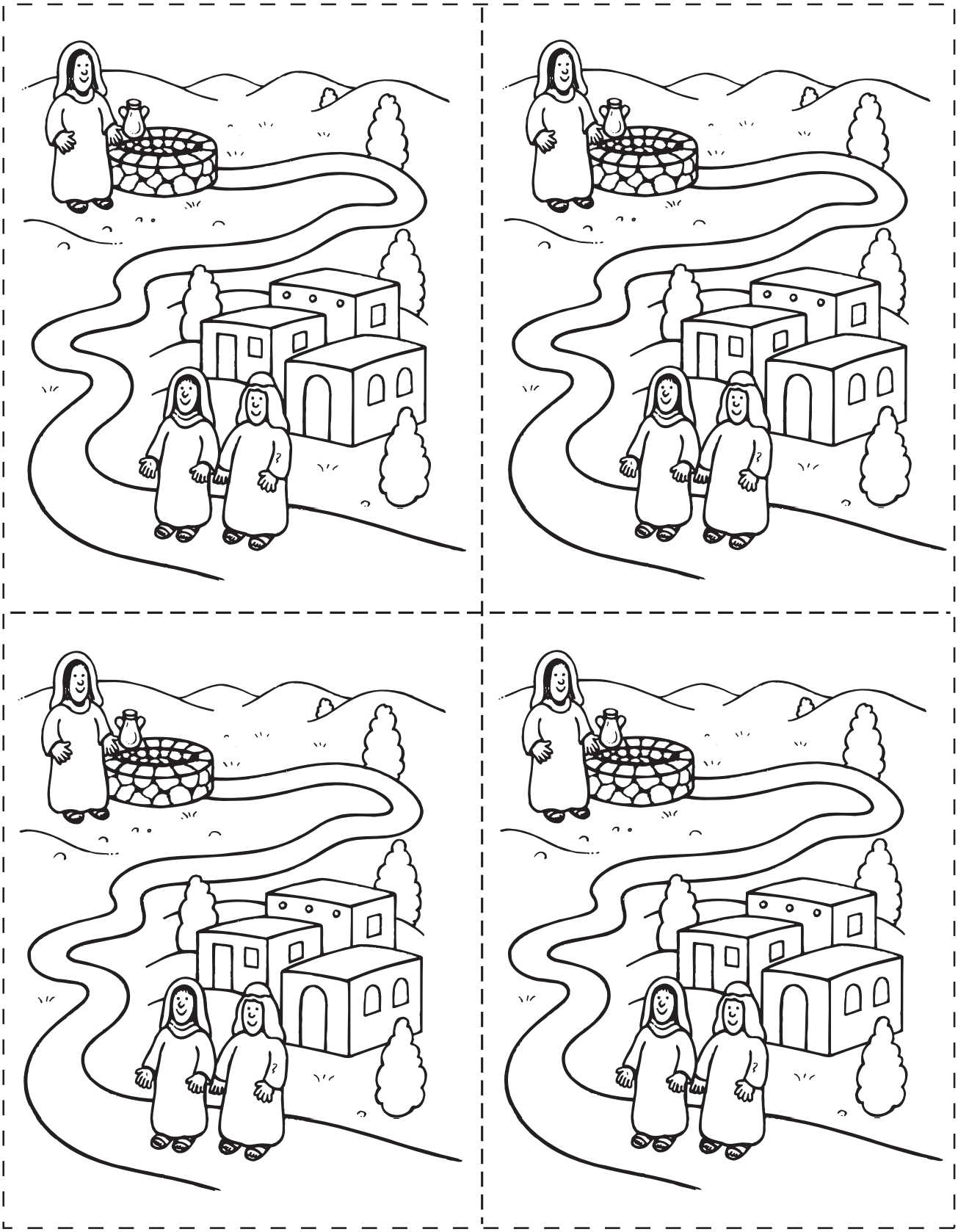
See page 5.

Story Picture: The Samaritan Woman

Give each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned…" handout. Have children color the handouts with crayons and then color the bricks of the well with wet chalk. Remind children that ►*Jesus is with us when we're lonely.*

Road to Living Water

Photocopy the handout, and cut apart the pictures.



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Today I learned...

Jesus is with us when we're lonely.

Today your child learned that Jesus is with us when we're lonely. Children heard that Jesus comforted the lonely Samaritan woman at the well. They discovered that they're never alone because Jesus is with them.

Verse to Learn

"I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20b).

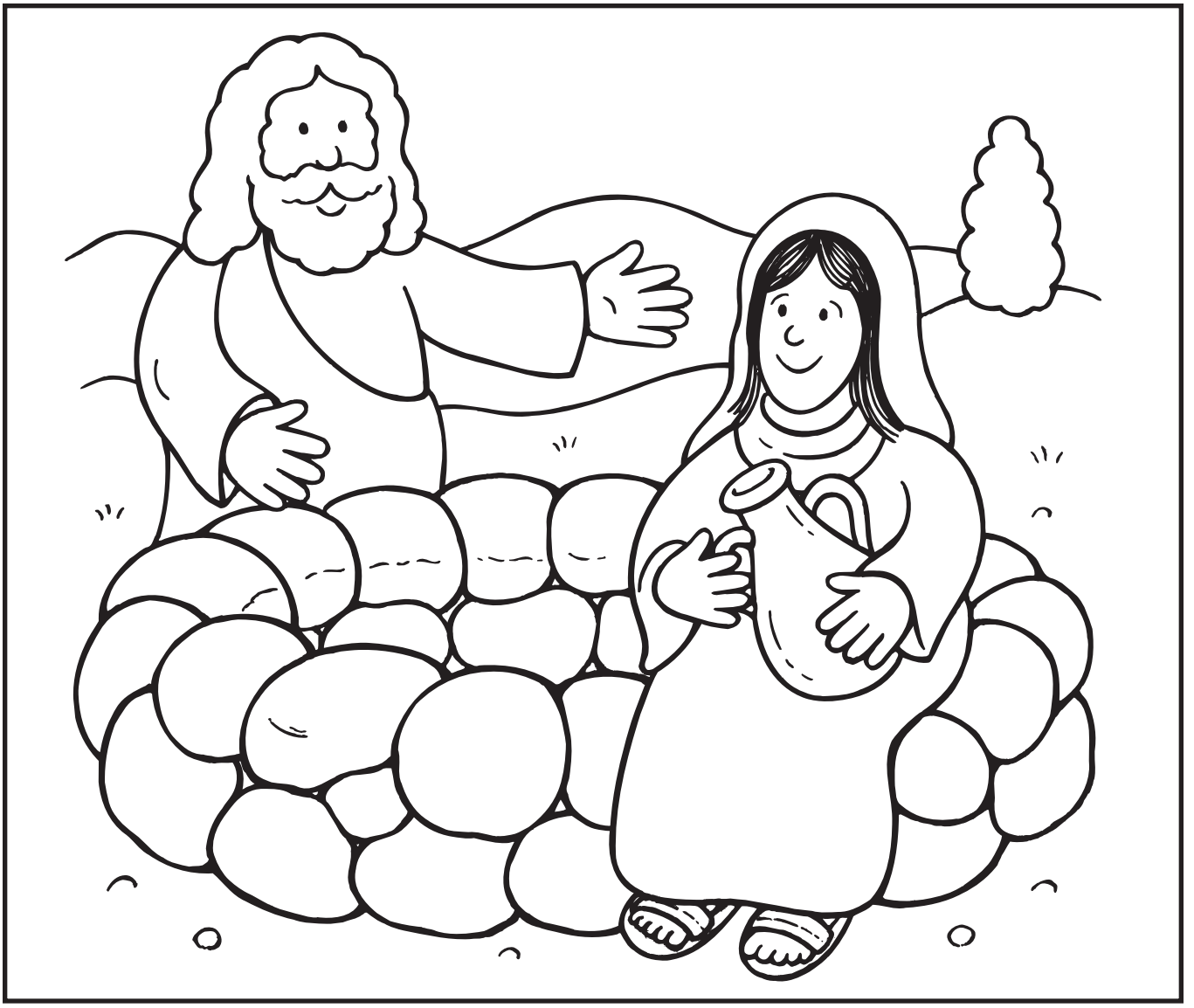
Ask Me...

- Why was the woman at the well lonely?
- When have you felt lonely?
- How can our family reach others who are lonely?

Family Fun

- Make a care package for a lonely neighbor. Include cheerful notes, pictures of your family, and homemade cookies. Deliver your package as a family along with a bright bouquet of flowers.

The Samaritan Woman (John 4:4-30, 39)



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