

General Church Education



# **FAMILY LESSON: JOHN 4 THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**

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## Family Lesson 33 - C

*The Woman at the Well*  
*John 4*

**FAMILY TALK:**  
**THE WELL IN SAMARIA**

Rev. Donald L. Rose

Thirty-two miles north of Jerusalem is a well that Jacob dug, the well where one day the Lord talked with a woman of Samaria. Near this well is a city with a beautiful situation, a valley between two mountains. If you go there today you can see exactly in the center of the opening of this valley between the two mountains, a grave. It is the tomb of Joseph. Joseph had died in Egypt, but was carried in a coffin to the promised land and was buried in this place.

That place meant a lot to certain people. As the woman said, “**Our father Jacob...gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle**” (*John 4: 12*). The higher of the two mountains was to the Samaritans the most important place on earth. This was Mount Gerizim. Moses never went into this land, but he told the people that when they went in they should read out loud the Lord’s blessings from Mount Gerizim. He said that certain men should “**stand upon Mount Gerizim to bless the people**” (*Deuteronomy 27: 11*).

And when they went into the land, Joshua carried this out. (*Joshua 8: 33*.) And when, at Gerizim, Joshua himself “**read all the words of the law...there was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers...**” (*Joshua 8:34, 35*).

Gideon’s son Jotham, when he told the parable or story of the trees that were seeking a king, did so at this place. He read:

“**Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you! The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive trees, ‘Reign over us!’**” (*Judges 9: 7, 8*).

It was a place connected with beloved stories. Even Abraham when he first came into the land of Canaan made his first camp at Shechem. (*Arcana Coelestia 1-41*.)

But this place became a place of bitter rivalry. Imagine people who had been unfriendly towards each other for years and years. People sometimes do have long-standing bad feelings that may date back to something that happened in the distant past. So it was with the Samaritans. As the woman said, “**The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans**” (Verse 9). At the time in Jewish history when the city and temple of Jerusalem were destroyed and the people

carried off to Babylon, a mixed race of people lingered in the land of Canaan and set up worship on Mount Gerizim. (They even built a temple there, which was later destroyed.) That is why the woman said, “**Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and you say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship**” (*John 4: 20*).

And so two places (only thirty miles apart) were the homes of people who had a number of things in common. For example, both people, the Jews and the Samaritans, believed that the books of Moses were sacred. But between these people, there was strong ill feeling. There was the feeling of hatred.

When the Lord came to that place one day, it is said that He was “**wearied with His journey**” (Verse 6). It is the only place where it is said that Jesus was wearied or tired. Yes, He was physically tired, for the journey probably began before dawn, and now it was noon, called the “sixth hour” (Verse 6). The number six often stands for hard labor. “**Six days you shall labor...**” (*Exodus 20: 9*).

There was another kind of weariness. The Lord had come from His first ministry in Judea. There He had cast the money-changers out of the temple. There, people did not receive Him, at least not openly. Nicodemus, who came to Him, did so in the night so that he would not be seen.

Would He not be wearied of a people who had so many evils themselves, but who felt so high and mighty above the Samaritans? They looked down on the Samaritans with contempt and regarded them as of no worth or value. What kind of people were the Samaritans? Normal people with far more goodness in them than the people of Judea would ever believe.

Calling a person a “Samaritan” was a way some showed they did not like that person (see *John 8: 48*). How they must have disliked the story the Lord told them about three men. The story, or parable, was about a man who needed help. The priest did not help him. The Levite did not help him. But along came a man who did help him, and he was a Samaritan. Ever since then there has been the expression of a “good Samaritan” (*Luke 17: 16*).

Another sign of the good qualities of the Samaritans is in the story of the ten lepers who were healed. Only one turned to give thanks — and that one was a Samaritan (*Luke 17: 16*).

And so the Lord came to the land of the Samaritans and sat by a wall. What He said to the woman who then approached was a question that would bring out the good will in her. “Give Me to drink.” It reminds one of the story of Elijah who said to a hungry woman that she should give him something to eat

and drink, thus bringing out her generous qualities (I Kings 17: 10). All the time Elijah was the one who could give and would give food.

The good quality of a person is more important than what the person knows or believes. “In the spiritual world into which every man comes after death, it is not asked what your belief has been or what your doctrine has been, but what your life has been” (DP 101).

This woman did not know she was talking to the Lord Himself. “If you knew,” the Lord said, “you would not have asked....” (*John* 4: 10). “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that said to you, Give Me to drink, you would have asked of Him.” Many of the Samaritans simply did not know enough. And it turns out that finally many of them came to believe in the Lord (*John* 4: 39-42). They said, “We have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world” (*John* 4:42).

What a lesson this was for the disciples, to see Samaritans receiving the Lord. And this lifted them above childish feelings of superiority. They were to lift their eyes to an important harvest, telling people about the Lord. He said to them, “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (Verse 35).

Doesn't the Lord seek to lift each one of us above our small reasons of dislike between ourselves? Does He not lift us to the thought that all people are the children of God? Can we not say as we look at a person of different race or different country or different customs, “This is my brother, I see that he worships the Lord and is a good man?” (*Arcana Coelestia* 2385:e).

## ***The Woman at the Well***

### ***John 4***

#### **LEVEL 1 – THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**

The Lord and His disciples were traveling from Jerusalem back to their home in Galilee. There were no cars when the Lord was on earth, and only a few people owned horses or donkeys. The Lord and His disciples had to walk when they went places. After walking many miles, they were tired, hungry, and thirsty. They came to Jacob's well in Samaria. The Lord sat down on the well while His disciples went to buy food.

The Lord's mother, Mary, was a Jew. The Lord looked like a Jew when He was on earth. In those days, Jews did not like the people who lived in Samaria, and did not talk to them.

A woman who lived in Samaria came to Jacob's well where the Lord was sitting. The Lord loves everyone. He talked to the woman and asked her to give him a drink of water from the well. She was surprised that He would ask her for something, since she thought He was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. She asked Him why He wanted her to give Him some water. The Lord told her that if she knew who He really was, she would ask Him for water. He said He would give her "living water." The woman did not understand what the Lord was talking about. When the Lord said "living water," He meant the things He teaches us to do to be good. He tells us these things in His Word. The Lord told the woman if she had His "living water," she would never be thirsty again.

The woman thought this would be wonderful. She had to work very hard to get water. In those days people didn't have sinks in their houses, with faucets that they could turn on, and have all the water they needed to drink. They had to go to the town well, like Jacob's well, which the Lord was sitting on. They took big jars or pots and filled them with well water, and then carried the heavy jugs back to their houses. Getting water was a hard job. The woman thought that if she was never thirsty, she would never have to do this hard job again. She wanted the Lord's water. She did not know yet that it was not the same kind of water she was thinking of.

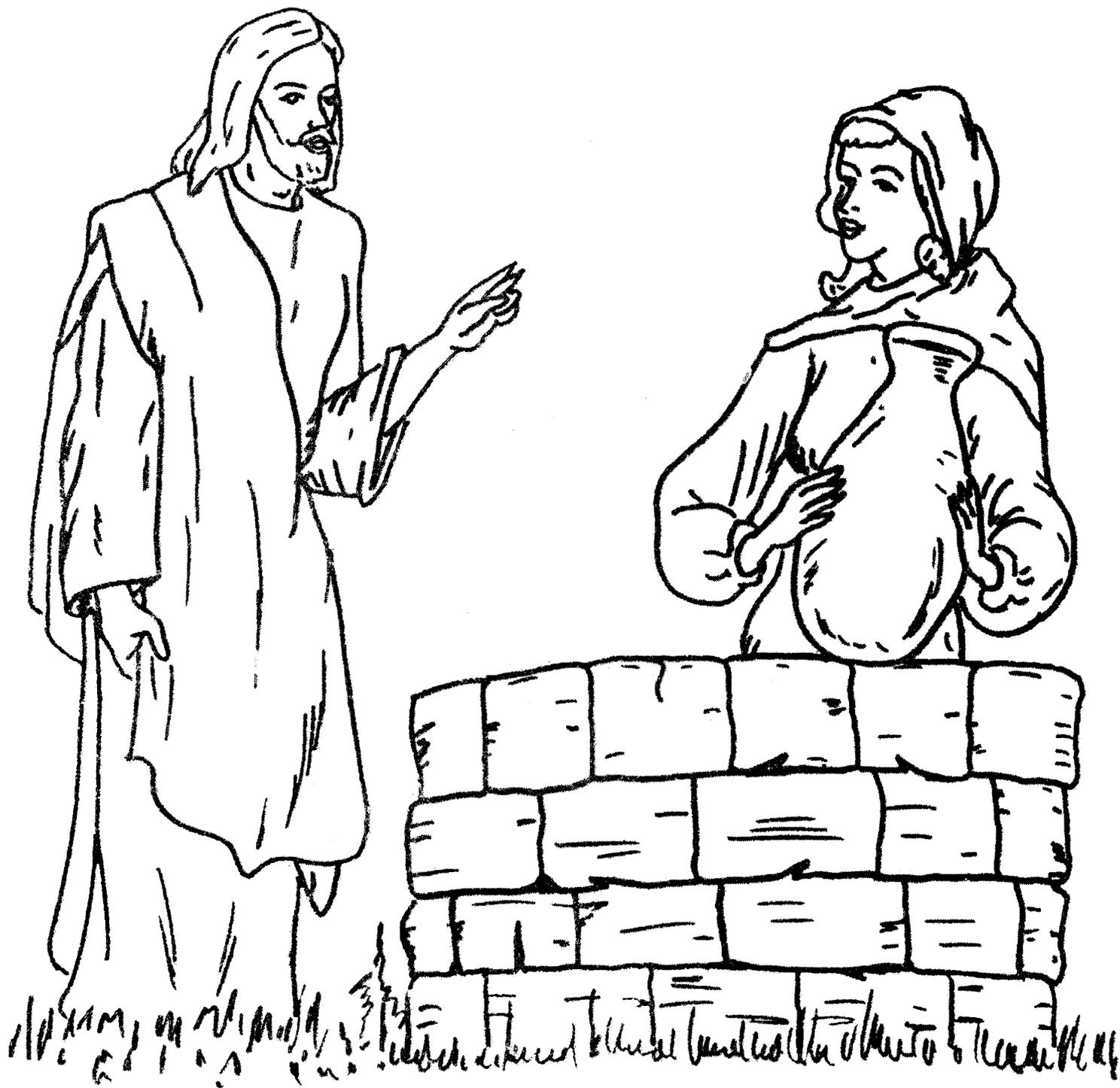
Then the Lord told her some things about her life that only she knew. She began to know that the Lord wasn't just a stranger sitting by a well, but was the Savior, Whom God had long promised to send from heaven.

She left and went to tell her friends about the wonderful man she had met at the well. Her friends came and listened to what the Lord told them. Then they all believed that He was the Savior sent by God.

### **Project**

The next page is a picture of the Lord talking to the woman at the well for you to color.

## THE WOMAN AT THE WELL



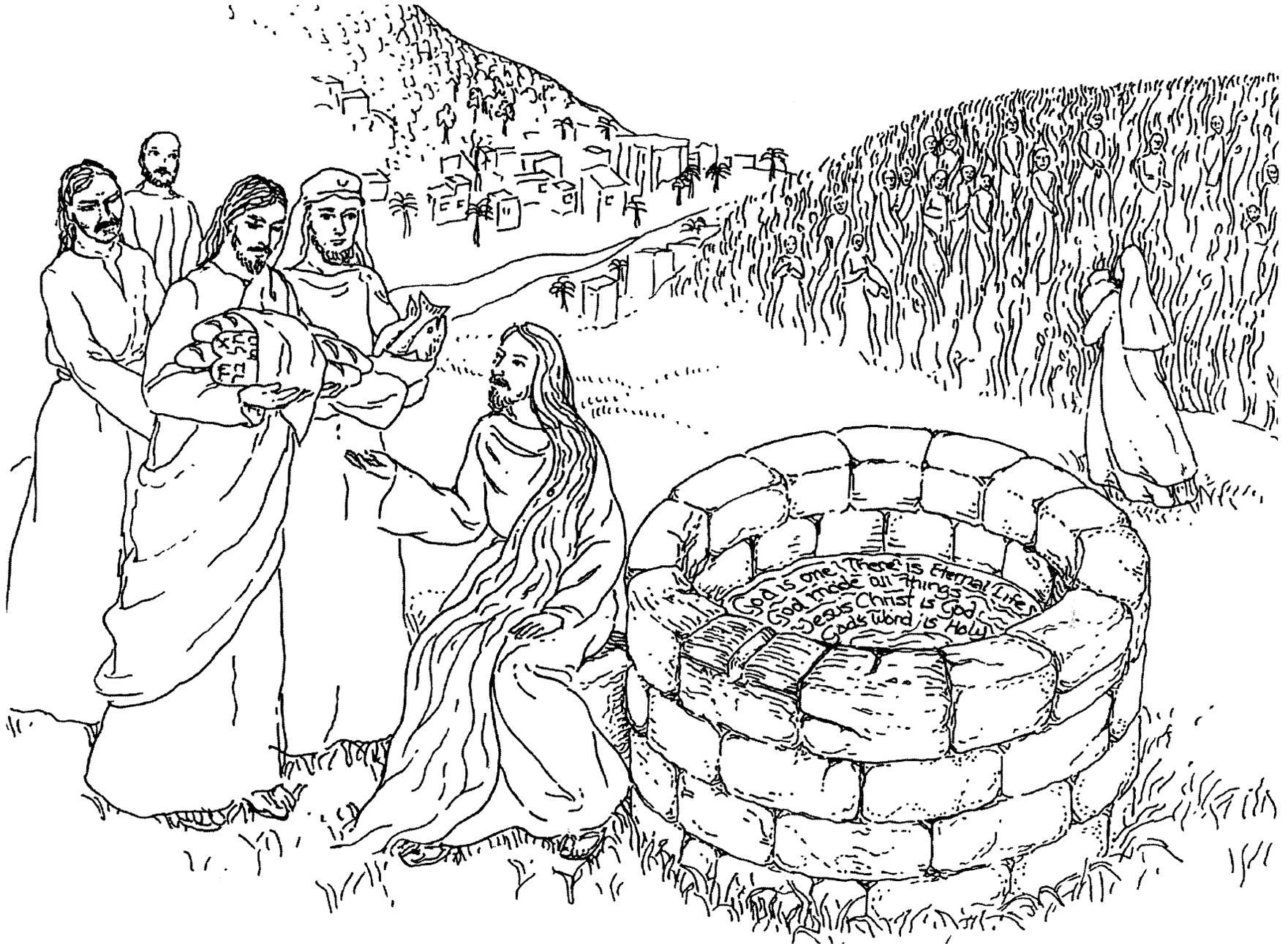
***The Woman at the Well***  
***John 4***  
**LEVEL 2 – THE WELL AT SAMARIA**

On page 2 is a picture for you to color.

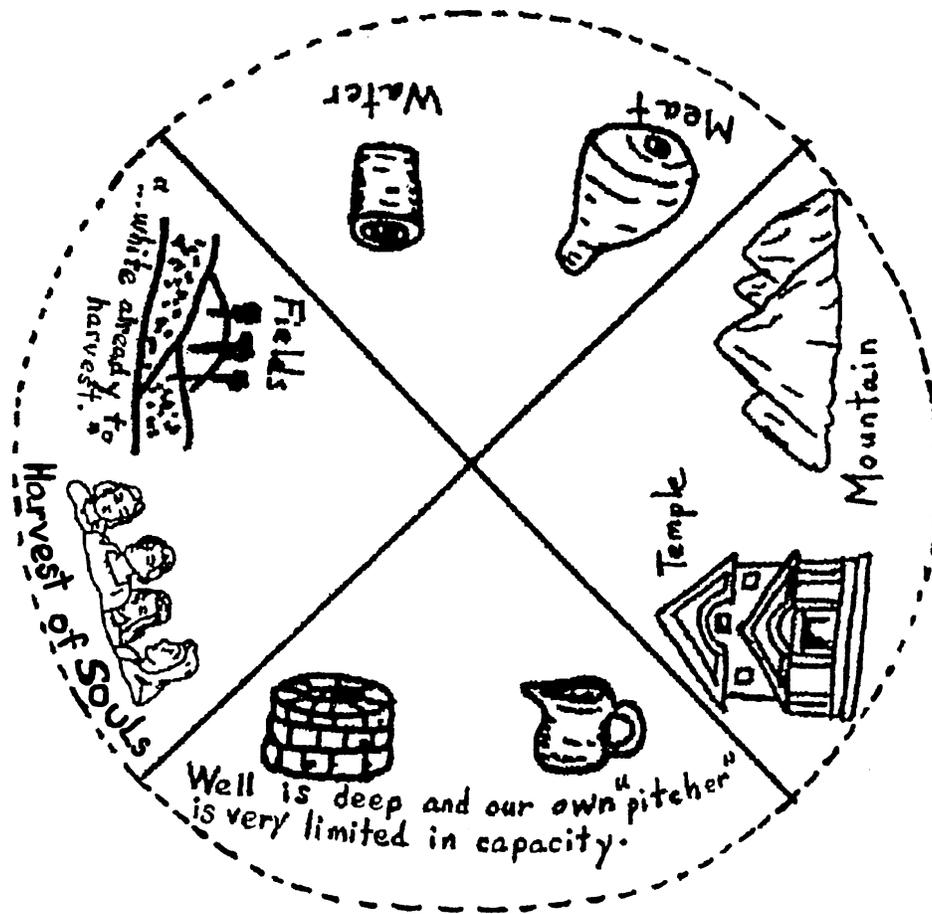
See if you can find all these things in the picture:

1. Find the **WORD**. Where is it?
2. Find true sayings from the **WORD**. Where did you find them?
3. Find a stream of living water. Color it blue.
4. Find the Ten Commandments on the stone tables.  
The Writing on them is different than ours.  
Do you know what language it is?
5. Find people. Where are they hidden?
6. Color the Picture.

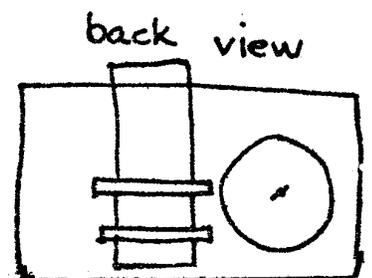
# THE WELL IN SAMARIA



**The Woman at the Well**  
**John 4**  
**LEVEL 3 - REPRESENTATIONS**



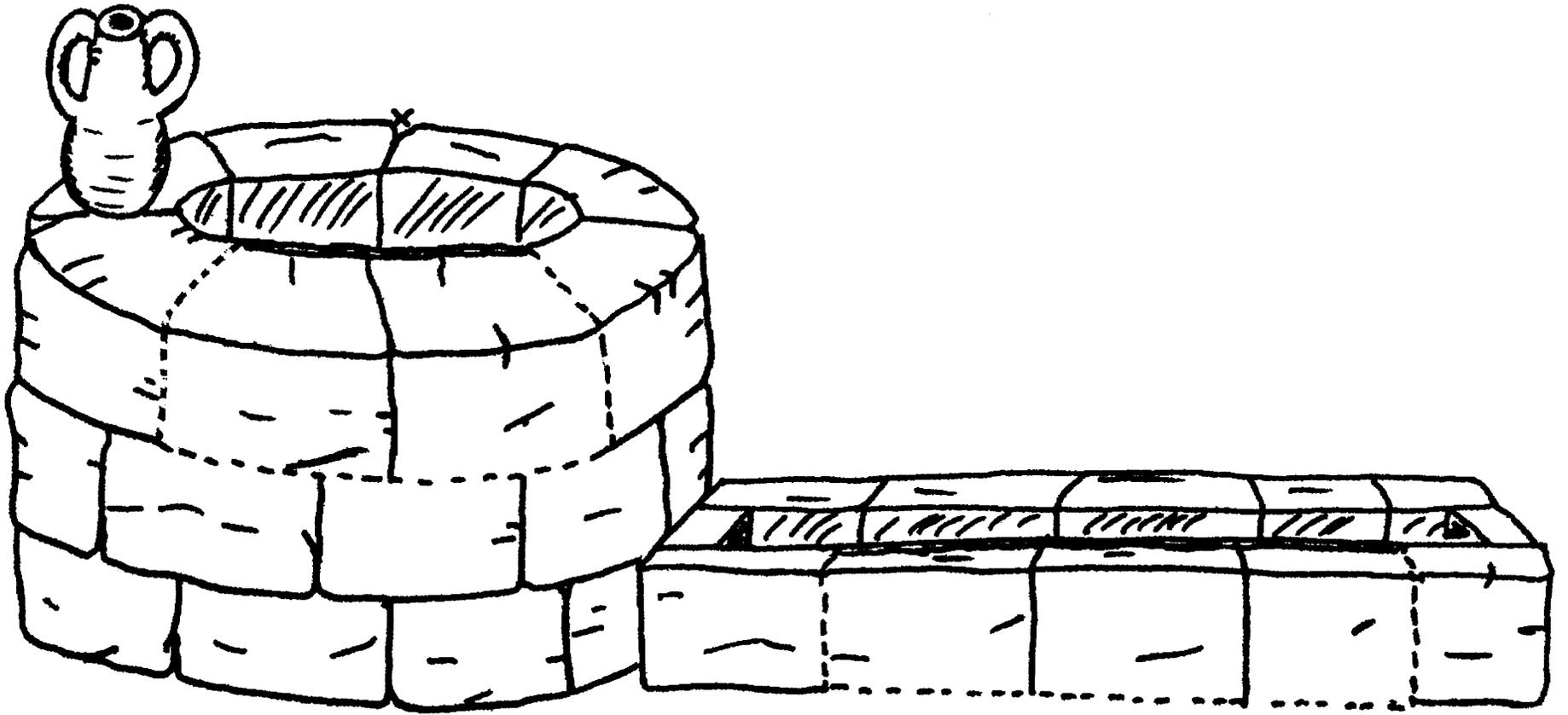
1. Color the wheel on this page and cut it out along the dotted lines.
2. Cut out the three strips on page 2.
3. Color the well on page 3.
4. Cut slits along the dotted lines on the two parts of the well. Fold up each section along the double lines to make a "window."
5. Use a brad fastener to attach the wheel behind the well at the X. As you turn the wheel, one section at a time shows through the "window".
6. Place the wide strip from page 2 behind the "window" in the trough. Glue or tape the narrow strips across to hold it so it can slide through them.



Glue or tape
Glue or tape

In the well, which represents the WORD, you will see pairs of things as you turn the wheel.
The well is like the WORD, from which we get water, or truth.
A narrow mind is like a small pitcher, it holds only a little truth.
A temple represents worship when you learn truths.
A mountain represents worship when you love the LORD.
Food, or meat, means good.
Water means truth.
Just as a field grows and produces food when it receives rain...
People grow spiritually and produce good—do good things—when they receive truth.
We can learn about spiritual things from what the LORD said to the woman.

Glue or tape
Glue or tape



## ***The Woman at the Well***

### ***John 4***

#### **LEVEL 4 – SAMARIA**

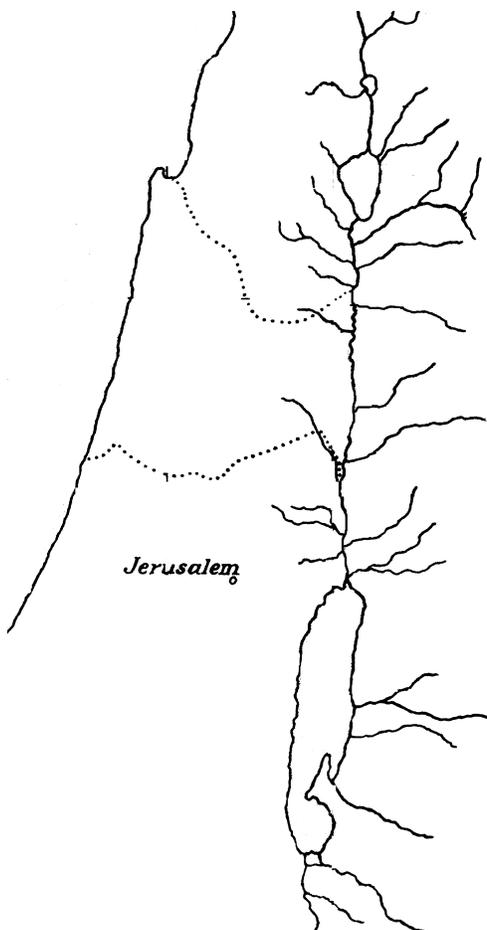
#### **Materials:**

Scissors and glue

Index cards or large paper

Pen or pencil

This story in *John 4* tells about a conversation the Lord had one day with a woman at a well. The woman's name is not given, but the place she lived is mentioned. She lived in a part of the Holy Land called Samaria. It was the middle part of the land of Canaan between Judea to the south and Galilee to the north.



#### **Label the map** *(answers on page 7)*

1. Label Samaria, Judea and Galilee on the map.
2. Can you remember the name of the great sea to the west and the two smaller ones to the east? Label them.
3. What was the name of the river which connects the two smaller seas? Label it.

#### **An important place**

The place where this story happens is important for two reasons.

One reason is because of all the other events which happened there in the history of the Jewish people.

The second reason is what this place represents for our lives.

## **Application**

On pages 4, 5, and 6 are some quotes from the Word about things that happened near this same well, and maps showing the land at those times.

Cut out each map and each quote. Match up each story with its own map, then keep them together by gluing the map onto one side of an index card, and the quote onto the other side. Or, glue both pieces side by side on a large piece of paper (answers on page 7).

### A Special Place of Worship

When you read these passages, you see how special this place was for the worship of the one God Jehovah.

It was the place Abram's grandson Jacob bought and settled, and gave to his son Joseph.

Even though Joseph was far away in Egypt when his father gave it to him, he felt it was a very important place, and instructed his sons to carry his bones back after he died. It took many centuries before his descendants could fulfill this wish, but they finally did after conquering the land again under Joshua.

It is recorded that before burying Joseph's bones, Joshua set up an altar near here, and made the people promise to worship the Lord always.

Many years later, when new people wanted to settle there, they could not live in safety until they learned to worship the Lord.

Why this place?

Notice on all of your maps that it is in the **middle**.

The Lord wants us to keep our worship of Him in the **center** of our lives.

### **Canaan represents our lives.**

The three divisions of Canaan, which you saw in the first map, represent three parts of our lives. Remember what those three divisions were?

1. The top part \_\_\_\_\_ represents our actions.
2. The bottom part \_\_\_\_\_ represents our will, or our intentions.
3. Between **wanting** to do something, and **doing** it, is figuring out how to do it, so we can see that the middle region \_\_\_\_\_ represents our minds, our thinking. And it is here, in the **middle** of our minds, that we must keep our worship of the Lord.

**Think of this map as a map of your mind.**

*Now go back to the map on page 1.*

Where **Judea** is, write something good you would like to do for someone else today.

In **Samaria** write what you must learn in order to do it.

In **Galilee** write what you did—after you do it.

### Firsts

The stories that take place at this part of the Holy Land tell of firsts:

- the first altar of Abram after coming to Canaan
- the first worship of the Children of Israel after conquering Canaan.
- What is the “first” of the story we read today about the Lord’s talk with the Samaritan woman? It is contained in the last question from the woman to the Lord and His response. Find it in John 4: 25-26, or solve this letter puzzle to see what He said.

"Q APDN JTWJ FOBBQWT QB RDFQPZ. NTOP TO  
RDFOB, TO NQEE JOEE HB WEE JTQPZB."

"Q NTD BXOWA JD SDH WF TO."

Write the woman’s question here:

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Write the Lord’s answer here:

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Genesis 12:

Abram went from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan and they came to Haran...And Abram departed to go to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem...and there he built an altar to the Lord.

Genesis 34:

Then Jacob come safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city. And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent...Then he erected an altar there and called it Elohe Israel.

Genesis 50:

Joseph dwelt in Egypt...Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you and you shall carry my bones from here."

Exodus 13:

So God led the people around by way of the wilderness to the Red Sea. And the Children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him.

Joshua 24:24:

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem...And he took a large stone and set it up there.

Joshua 24:32:

The bones of Joseph, which the Children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought.

Judges 9:

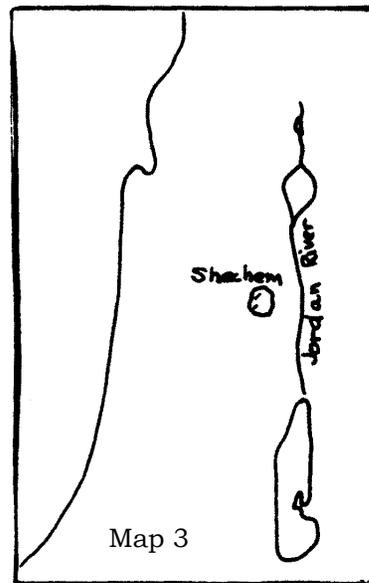
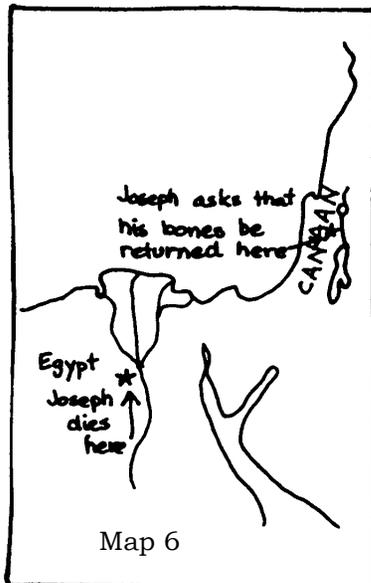
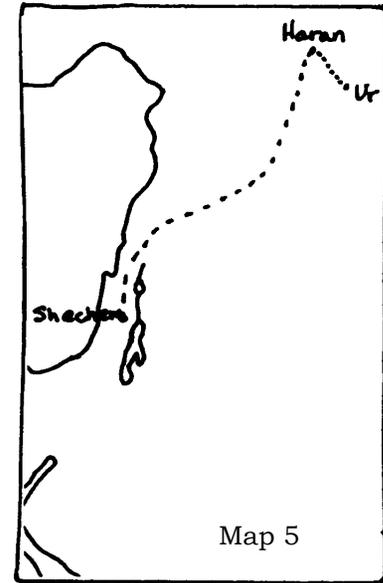
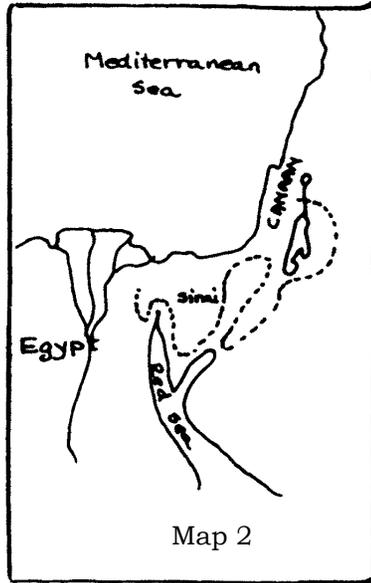
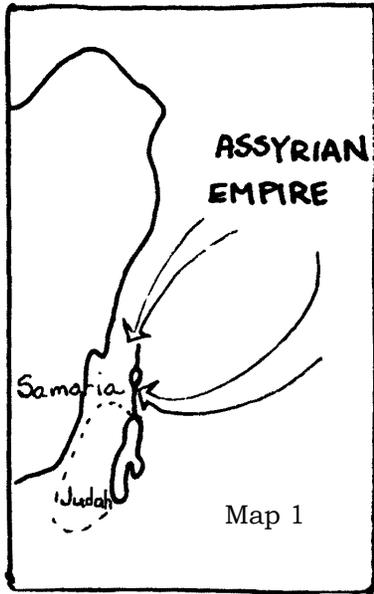
Jotham went and stood on top of Mt. Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out and said unto them, "Hearken unto me, you men of Shechem."

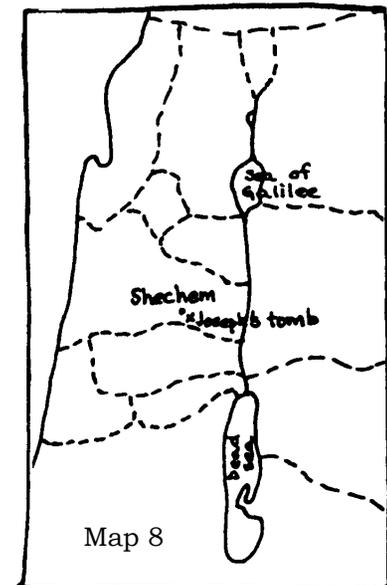
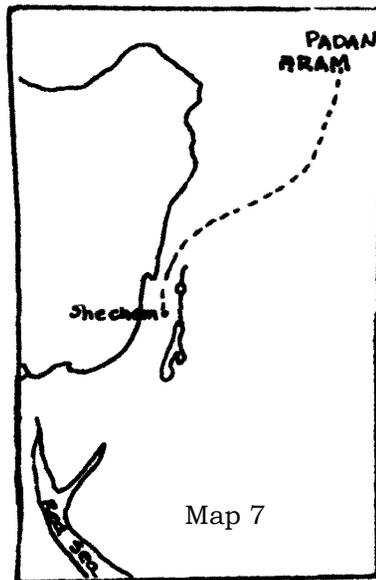
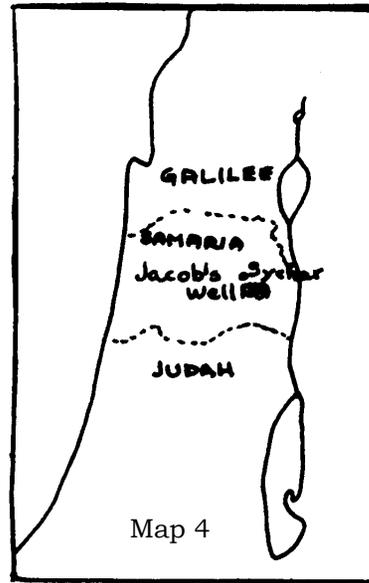
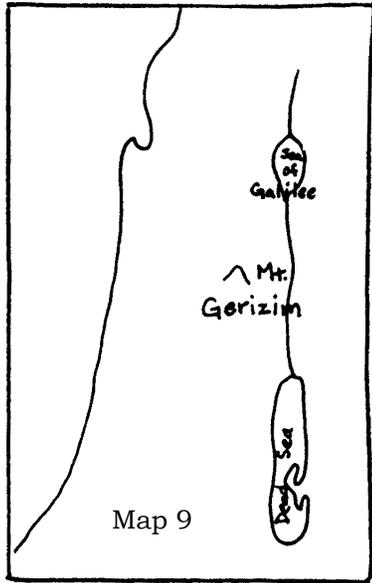
II Kings 17:

Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the Children of Israel...And at the beginning of their dwelling there they did not fear the Lord; therefore, the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

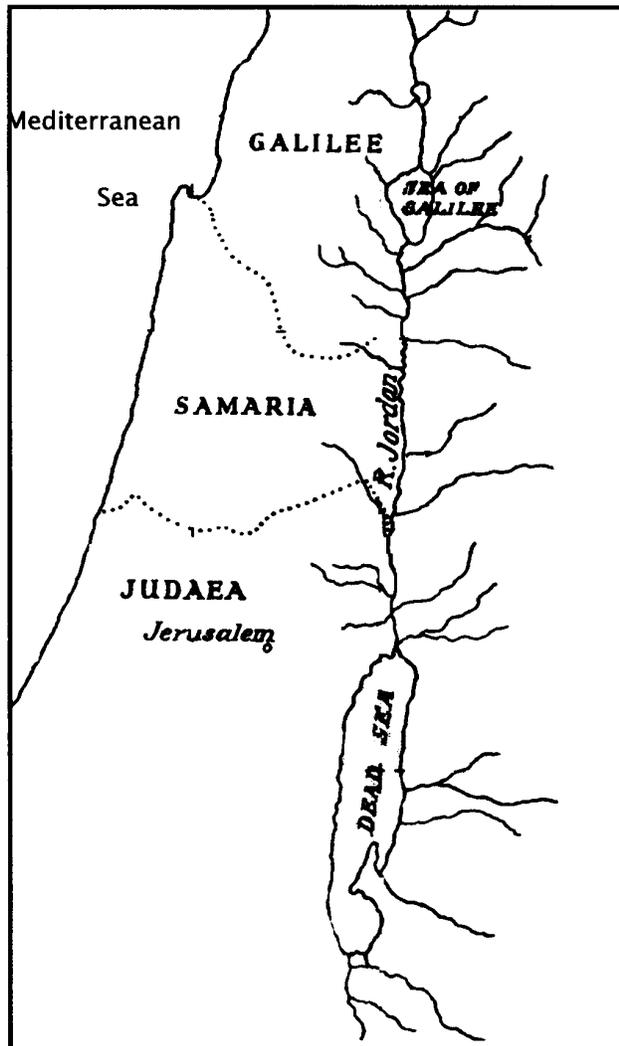
John 4:

So He came to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well...And a woman of Samaria came to draw water.





## Answers for map



### Answers for Map and Quote Pairs:

Map 1 = II Kings 17

Map 2 = Exodus 13

Map 3 = Joshua 24:24

Map 4 = John 4

Map 5 = Genesis 12

Map 6 = Genesis 50

Map 7 = Genesis 34

Map 8 = Joshua 24:32

Map 9 = Judges 9

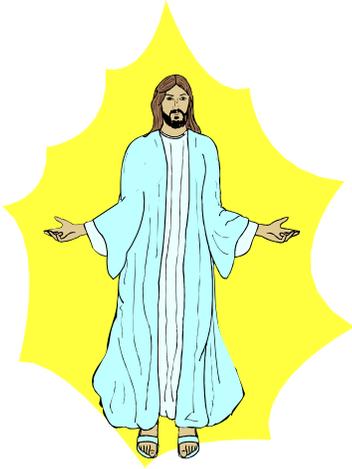
## ***The Woman at the Well***

### ***John 4***

#### **LEVEL 5 – TO THOSE READY TO UNDERTAKE SOME STUDY IN THE WRITINGS**

(It is best if you have copies of *True Christian Religion* and *Divine Providence*.)

#### GOD AS THE GIVER OF GIFTS



It is a beautiful phrase the Lord used, when talking to the woman at the well. If she only knew the Gift of God.

(*John 4: 10*).

You are invited to reflect for a while on God as a giver of gifts.

Didn't the Lord say, in the Sermon on the Mount, that if we know how to give good gifts, **“How much more shall your Father in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?”** (*Matthew 7: 11*).

Rather than try to think of all the Lord's gifts at once, let us concentrate on a few specific gifts and reflect on them. There is a passage in *True Christian Religion* which compares us to a bride looking at the gifts of the groom, **“seeing him in his gifts as in mirrors”** (*True Christian Religion 767*).

#### **FIRST GIFT**

The Lord's gift of freedom of choice

In the case of the gift of freedom, think of this. The Lord does not just give it to us once. He keeps on giving it back to us, and preserving it with us.

**“The Lord guards freedom in man, as man guards the apple of his eye.”**

(*Divine Providence 97*).

Learn, then, to treasure your freedom. Think about it as the Lord's gift and seeing Him in His gift.

Don't do things that take away your ability to choose and act freely and from reason.

**SECOND GIFT**

## The Lord's gift of contentment

There is a delightful passage in the *Arcana Coelestia* (number 8717) which talks about the Lord providing riches and honors for people it wouldn't hurt, but not for people it might hurt. To those it might hurt, He gives something else, and this is really something to think about.

By the way, what would be meant by someone who would be harmed by honors? Well, suppose you get a lot of fame and publicity and attention and praise. Is it good or bad? If it goes to your head and makes you conceited, then it hurts you. That is the kind of thing.

So if you are one, who at a certain stage of life would not be benefitted by too much honor or riches, what is the Lord's gift? Well, it is to be glad with what you do have and to be **"more content than the rich and honored."** This gift may be given gradually. Think about that for a while—the gift of being more content than some highly celebrated person.

**THIRD GIFT**

## The gift of confidence in the Lord

A third gift to think about is what the Lord gives INSTEAD OF A KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE. A wonderful passage in *Divine Providence* talks about the reason why we are not to know the future. See if you can understand DP 178 and 179.

That impatient longing to know the future is not good, and notice the gift the Lord gives in its place" (DP 179). That is the gift of confidence that the things happening in your life are being directed by the Lord.

That is a gift of great value in which a person may find confidence and peace. Enclosed for you is a quotation (a favorite of many people):

**"Peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things, and provides all things and that He leads to a good end"**

*(Arcana Coelestia 8455).*

### **FOURTH GIFT**

#### The gift of giving

For our next gift, let us look again at *True Christian Religion*. In number 43 we learn that there are three things in love:

1. To love others outside of self.
2. To want to be close to them.
3. To render them blessed or make them happy.

The way the Divine love renders blessed or makes happy is to GIVE. At the end of number 43 we read: **“The third essential of the love of God which is TO RENDER OTHERS BLESSED FROM HIMSELF, is recognized in eternal life, which is the endless blessedness, happiness and felicity that God gives. . .”**

If you have a copy of *True Christian Religion*, look at the next number (number 44) and see what it says about the way a mother bird feels, or how parents feel. And as you read these vivid and clear examples, bear in mind that these things are picturing to you THE GIFT OF GOD.



### **ONE FINAL GIFT**

#### The gift of conjugal love

In the book *Conjugal Love*, we are told that the Lord has taken all the good things He has and put them together in one gift, and that is the gift of conjugal love.

One of the passages that makes this wonderful point is number 68, which says that **“all the states of blessedness, happiness, delight, pleasantness and pleasure which could ever be bestowed upon man by the Lord the Creator are gathered into this His love.”**

This is also shown in number 180, which shows that God’s love is such that it wants to give. Therefore, the Lord gathered all kinds of happiness into a love, the states of which are **“innocence, tranquillity, inmost friendship, full confidence, and a mutual desire of mind and heart to do the other every good.”**

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These are some of the passages in the Writings which reflect the phrase that the Lord used at the well.

**“If you knew the GIFT OF GOD, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”** *John 4:1*