

Background Scripture: John 4:1-42

Print Passage: John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41

# Different, but the Same



## WAKE UP!

Miles talked about inviting some of the boys he sees in the neighborhood of his church to the Junior Laymen meetings. Jackson said, “Bruh, those dudes are not going to come here. They are Mexicans and they are not trying to be up in here with us.” Miles replied, “How do you know that? If we all love God and want to help other people in our community, it does not matter if they are Mexican, and we are black.” Jackson retorted, “Whatever, man, but I think you are wasting your time.”

Miles followed through with his plan and invited some of the boys to church for a Saturday Junior Laymen meeting—where they had a short Bible study lesson and then talked about projects they wanted to do in the community. The adults provided burgers, chips, and drinks. It was a fun time. After the meeting, one of the boys named Miguel asked, “Hey, Miles, is this church just for black people? I mean, I’m not trying to be funny but that’s all we ever see going in and out of here.”

One of the adults overheard the conversation and interjected his

comments. Bro. White said, “Miguel, we are happy you are here. This is God’s church, and everyone is welcome. You and your friends can help us show that to the community. Think about coming to church tomorrow and let your friends and family know they are welcome to come as well.”

Miguel thanked Miles and Bro. White and told them both he would like to keep hanging out with them in the future.



## WORD UP

John 4:7-15,  
28-30, 39-41

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” 11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

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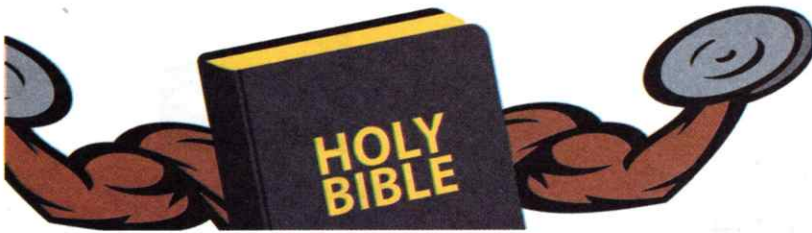
28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

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39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

### KEY VERSE:

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” (John 4:39)



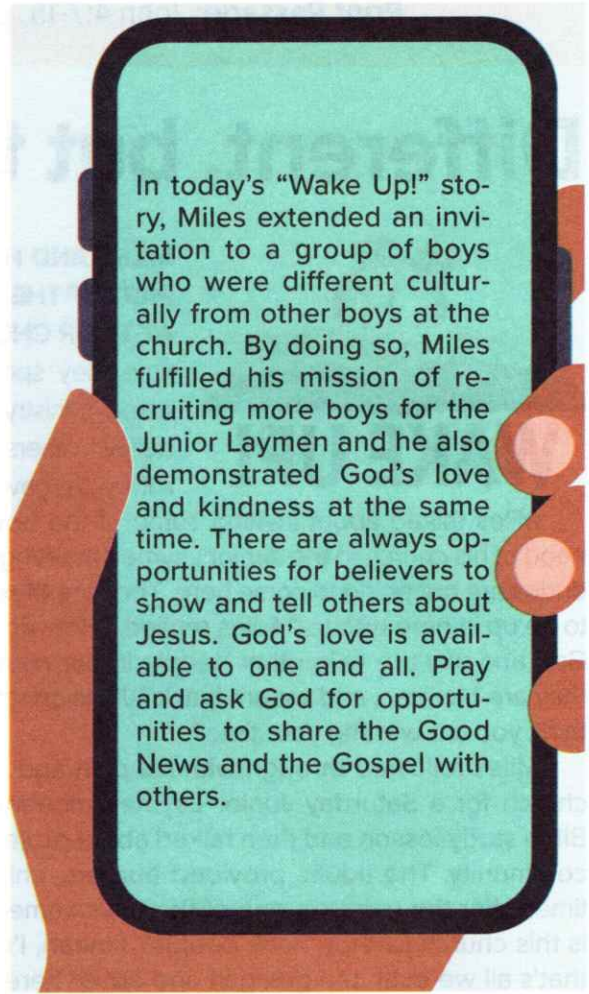
## THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

# WORK OUT

### **DURING ANCIENT TIMES, IT WAS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR A JEWISH MAN TO TALK TO A SAMARITAN WOMAN.**

In today's lesson, Jesus ignored those customs and asked the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well for a drink of water. When the woman hesitated, Jesus told her that He could give her water that would keep her from ever being thirsty again. The woman could not understand what Jesus was offering her, but she was interested in His suggestion of never needing water again. Not having to go to the well would certainly make the woman's life easier. Jesus was able to tell the woman things about her life that only someone with divine knowledge would know. When Jesus spoke about the woman's personal life, she quickly changed the subject and began asking Him other questions. Jesus allowed the woman to ask Him questions, which helped her piece together His true identity. The woman knew the prophecies of the coming Messiah, so when Jesus revealed that He was the Messiah, she believed Him.

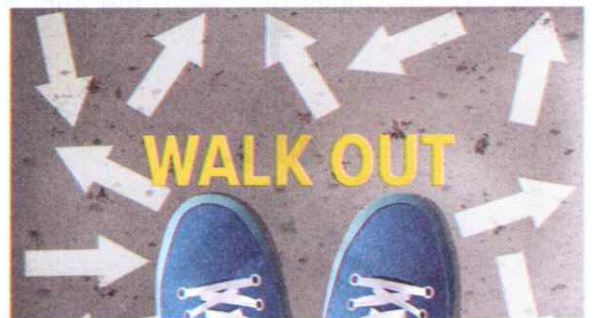
The disciples returned from getting food and saw Jesus talking to the woman. They did not ask why Jesus was talking to the woman or what they were talking about. The disciples were more concerned about getting Jesus' food. Learning the news that Jesus was the Messiah, the woman left her water pot and ran back to her village to tell others about her experience with Jesus. Because of the woman's testimony, many came to see Jesus and many Samaritans believed.



In today's "Wake Up!" story, Miles extended an invitation to a group of boys who were different culturally from other boys at the church. By doing so, Miles fulfilled his mission of recruiting more boys for the Junior Laymen and he also demonstrated God's love and kindness at the same time. There are always opportunities for believers to show and tell others about Jesus. God's love is available to one and all. Pray and ask God for opportunities to share the Good News and the Gospel with others.

## INSIDE OUT

When Jesus talked to the woman at the well, He changed her life forever. According to the laws of the land, men did not talk to women in public, and most definitely a Jewish man was not to talk to a Samaritan woman. Jesus did not worry about laws or customs when He offered the woman living water. Jesus cared more about the woman's spiritual needs than about what people thought. This week, think about how you can lead others to Jesus, especially those who may be different from you culturally.



Think about God's unconditional love for you. God does not care about how you look, how much money you have, your cultural background, or where you live. God loves you just as you are. Do you have this same kind of unconditional love for others? Whenever you are tempted to judge or mistreat someone, choose acceptance and kindness instead.