

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: Samaritan Woman at the Well

Learning Goals: Students should compare/contrast the characters of Nicodemus and the woman at the well to illustrate Jesus' inclusive love for "the world."

Question: When have you been the thirstiest you have ever been in your whole life?

Prayer.

Start with Memory Verse Quiz.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Read John 4 (Gospel of John Video)

Who remembers the last story we talked about on Friday? Nicodemus

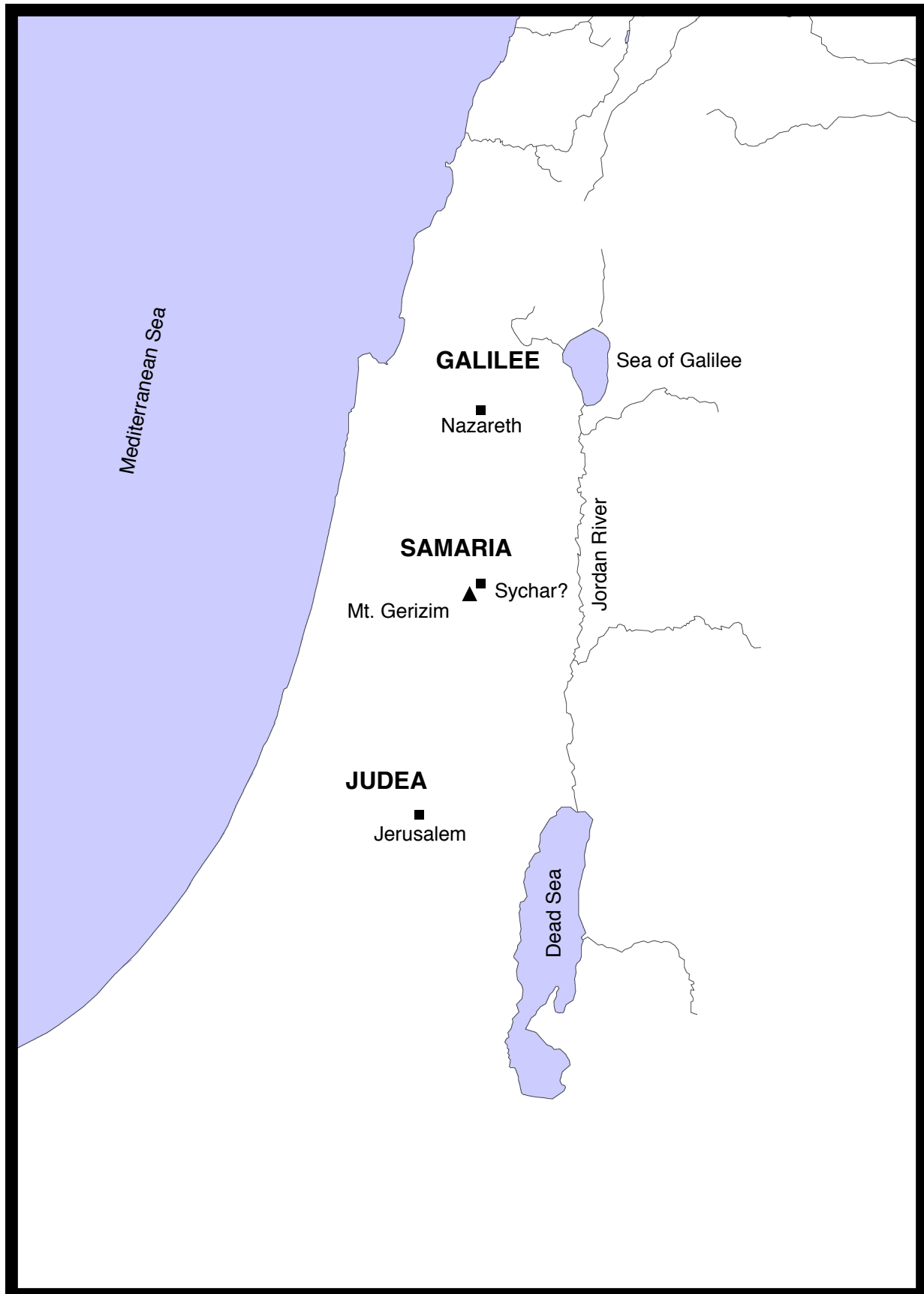
Comparison between Nicodemus and Samaritan Woman

	Nicodemus	Samaritan Woman
Ethnicity	Jewish	Samaritan
Gender	man	woman
Education	highly education	uneducated
Economic Status	wealthy	poor
Social Location	upper class	lower class
Knowledge of Jesus	knew Jesus was from God	had no idea who Jesus was
Morality	moral	immoral
Time of conversation	came in the night	came in the day
Name	named in the Gospel	nameless
Disposition	calm	hot debater

The Samaritan Woman appears to be the polar opposite of Nicodemus. It demonstrates that Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people.

Map (Geography is very important to the story here)

- Identify features:
 - Cities: Jerusalem, Sychar, Nazareth
 - Bodies of Water: Mediterranean Sea, Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River
 - Mountain: Mt. Gerizim
 - Regions: Galilee, Samaria, Judea
 - (features of John's Gospel - focus on Judean ministry - vs. Galilean ministry in Synoptics)
 - Routes to travel to Galilee



OT Connections

- Why did Samaritans and Jews dislike each other?
 - think back to our discussion on the Parable of the good Samaritan
- Remember the story of the Jews:
- Exodus from Egypt
 - Wander in the desert for 40 years
 - Enter the promised land and drive out the inhabitants
 - Judges rule
 - Get a King (only 3 kings - Saul, David, Solomon)
 - Kingdom splits into north and south
 - North Conquered, taken into captivity (722)
 - Assyrians resettled the land - mixed marriages with Jews in north
- Captives come back - Samaritans want to help rebuild temple
- “You are mixed-breeds, you aren’t pure”
- They go and set up their own temple
- Political enemies, religious enemies
 - Hostility between two groups

Shocking Features

- Jesus talking to a woman - very uncommon
 - One group of Pharisees that were so concerned about even glancing at women that they would constantly walk with their heads down and not watch where they were going. Sometimes, they would even run into trees or walls because they wouldn’t look up. They were called the “bruised and bloody Pharisees”
- Jesus is talking to a Samaritan (see reasons above)
- Jesus sees through her (sees her heart, her past, her sin) - he doesn’t overlook sin, but he doesn’t condemn her either. He confronts her with compassion.
 - What is her response? She changes the subject to worship.
- Jesus is clearly saying that location of worship isn’t the most important thing. What is important is who we worship and how we worship.
- Jesus clearly states that he is the Messiah
 - compare this with the secrecy motifs that we saw in the Synoptic gospels.

Continuation of Themes in John’s Gospel

- What were the two purposes we talked about in John’s Gospel? (7.7.1 - Evangelism, Discipleship)
- Theme of “witness” - she immediately goes to tell others about this man she met
- “The fields are white (ripe) with harvest” - if Jesus and the disciples are reaping, who have we seen John’s Gospel who was planting? (preparing the way for the Lord). We might also see the OT prophets that came before.
- (vs. 42) - The first step in discipleship is about making the decision for yourself, not just believing what somebody else said.

“We see people in a village respond warmly to Jesus Christ in defiance of over 150 years of feuding and smoldering resentment against the Jews. Jesus, though he is a Jew, has won their affection.”

Earl F. Palmer, *The Intimate Gospel*, 55

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Samaritans
- Mt. Gerizim
- Sychar
- Jerusalem
- Know the map
- How is this story an example of the theme of witness in John's Gospel?