



Lesson 2: “An Invitation to True Life”

3-5 In-Person Crew Club Plan

<u>Key Teaching Points</u>	I’m invited to find true life in Jesus.
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” (John 4:14, NLT).
<u>Bible Passage</u>	“Jesus invites a woman to drink living water” (John 4:1-42, NLT)
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Bible ● A bottle of water, one per student ● Index cards, one per student* ● Pens and pencils*

*Materials marked with an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks.¹ Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Have children take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the “How Are

¹ Optional: Give students a salty snack and wait until the end of the lesson to pass out water. Use this as a helpful way to connect the feeling of being thirsty physically with the feeling of being thirsty for God.

You Feeling?” chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

- Open a discussion with the question: “What is your favorite drink when you're thirsty?”

Play a game.

Drawing Water

Give each student a straw and two cups, with one empty cup and one cup filled halfway with water. Demonstrate how to hold water in the straw by placing it in the cup filled with water, plugging the top with a finger and lifting the straw. Then, show students how to place the water into the empty cup by placing the straw in the cup and removing your finger from the top. On “go”, give students two minutes to transfer as much water as they can from the cup filled with water to the empty cup. When the timer stops, place the cups in the center and compare how much water each student transferred to their empty cup. The student that drew the most water in two minutes time wins the round!



Receive (20 minutes)

Receive God’s Word.

For the Bible story, you will need either you or your co-captain to play the role of the woman at the well in the following skit. As the students listen to the Bible story, fill a squirt gun with water and have students pass it around from one student to the next. However, every time that the word WATER is mentioned, the student with the squirt gun in their hands can spray you or your co-captain with water.

Let me tell you a story about a man who told me everything I’ve ever done! One day, I brought my WATER jar to the well just outside of town. I always go to the well to draw WATER at the hottest hour of the day so that I can avoid meeting other people there. Let’s just say I’ve made a lot of mistakes in my life, and everyone in town knew it. When you have a bad reputation, you don’t really want to be around other people. However, on this particular day that I went to the well, I realized that someone else was there when I arrived. I expected him to leave as soon as I got there, but to my surprise, he didn’t leave. Instead, he spoke to me, and he even asked me to get him a drink of WATER!

I could not believe he was asking me for a drink of WATER! When I told him my surprise at this, he said something really strange. He said: “If you knew what God wants to give to you, and if you knew who I was, you would be asking me for a drink of living WATER.”

I had to laugh when I heard this! I noticed that this man didn’t have any

buckets to draw WATER with, and this was a really deep well! It's just not possible to get WATER from this well without them. And living WATER...what does that even mean? The WATER from this well isn't anything special. I would know, I've been getting WATER from this well for years!

If that wasn't enough, this man then tells me that those who drink of the WATER that he gives them will never thirst again, and that this WATER is just like a fountain that's constantly bubbling up with fresh WATER that gives everlasting life to those that drink it. Have you ever heard of such a thing? I hadn't, but all I knew is that I wanted that kind of WATER...I would never have to go draw WATER from the well again! So I asked him, pleading with him: "Sir, give me this WATER!"

Then our conversation really got interesting. Instead of giving me this WATER, this man began to tell me everything I'd ever done. He knew about all the mistakes that I had made, even though I'd never met this man before in my life! I thought that there could be only one explanation for this: this man knew God.

So I thought I'd tell him just about the only thing I knew to say. I said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, and that when he comes, he will explain everything to us!" Then, to my surprise, this man responded with just three words: "I am he."

I realized that I wasn't feeling thirsty anymore. This encounter with Jesus was the living WATER that I didn't even know I needed! That day, I came to the well thirsty, but I left filled and satisfied! In fact, I was so satisfied, that I left behind my WATER jar to go extend an invitation of my own to other people in town: "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?!"



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God's truth.

Are you thirsty?

We are going to play a game to see who can eat the most saltine crackers in two minutes. Whoever can swallow the most saltine crackers in two minutes, wins. You must go one at a time and you cannot drink water or any

liquid during the two minutes.

Handout five saltine crackers to each student, and refill when needed.

Ask students the following questions:

- **What does your mouth feel like right now?**
- **What would you say if I told you you couldn't drink water for the rest of the day?**

What does it feel like to be thirsty? What do you think it means to thirst for God?

Take student responses.

For the following two questions, ask students to guess the answer by raising their hand as you call out the numbers. Start from the highest numbers and go to the lowest. (100 days, 50 days, 30 days, 10 days, 7 days, 3 days, 1 day) The answers are provided below.

- **How many days can humans survive without food?** (Thirty days!)
- **How many days can humans survive without water?** (Three days!)

A person can survive without food for thirty days and without water for only three days. Our bodies are designed to get thirsty because it helps us remember to drink the water we need to survive. God has also designed us with a different kind of thirst: he has designed us to thirst for God! God designed us to thirst for him because he knows that without Jesus, we cannot receive eternal life, life forever with him!

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Pray together.

Tell a short personal testimony of a time that you experienced Jesus as the “living water.” Explain that Jesus offers this invitation to everyone because God created all of us to thirst for him.

Are you thirsty for God? Will you accept Jesus's invitation?

In order for you to receive the living water that Jesus gives, you have to want it. You have to want forgiveness for your sin. You have to want a new life with God. You have to want to walk with Jesus and have a relationship with him.

Read Psalm 42:1 from a Bible.

**“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.”
(NLT)**

How will you respond to Jesus’ invitation to you? Do you thirst for him? Do you long to have a relationship with him?

Give each child an index card and a pen or pencil.

Write a prayer or draw a picture of one thing you can do this week to build your relationship with Jesus.

Take prayer requests and close in prayer.