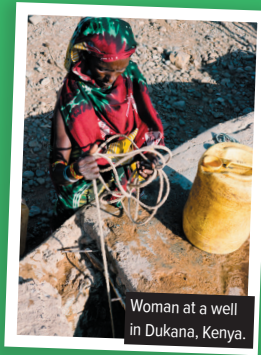


# WOMAN AT THE WELL

In John 4, as Jesus is travelling, he meets a woman from Samaria at a well. There were many reasons that Jesus' disciples thought that Jesus shouldn't have spoken to her. Firstly, in those days, men weren't meant to speak to women in public. Secondly, Jews and Samaritans did not get along. But, this didn't stop Jesus, because he had something important to tell her.

Now, the Samaritans and Jews disagreed about where they should worship God. The Jews believed that it needed to be in the temple they had built in Jerusalem, and the Samaritans had built a place to worship on top of a mountain in their land. But what Jesus had to say would change that.

They have a long conversation and Jesus tells the woman that he can offer her living water, water that gives eternal life. What a strange thing to say! The woman thought it was strange too, and didn't



Woman at a well in Dukana, Kenya.

understand what Jesus meant. But Jesus explained that a time was coming when people wouldn't need to go to a temple to worship God. Instead they would worship him "in the Spirit and in truth". So the living water that Jesus talked about was the Holy Spirit, and it would mean that everyone would be able to worship him everywhere. The woman says to Jesus that she knows that the Messiah is going to come, and that he will explain everything to them. And then Jesus tells her something amazing. He says that he is the Messiah. This is really important because it is the first time in the gospel of John that Jesus has said this about himself.

After hearing this the woman is so excited that she leaves her water jar at the well and runs immediately to tell the people in the town where she lives about Jesus. She urges them to come and meet Jesus, who could be the Messiah. As a result of the woman's testimony, many people believed in Jesus.

## DID YOU KNOW...



IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
**71% OF PEOPLE**  
COLLECTING WATER ARE FEMALE.

WOMEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
COLLECTIVELY SPEND ABOUT  
**40 BILLION HOURS**  
A YEAR COLLECTING WATER.

A 20-LITRE JERRYCAN  
WEIGHS ABOUT **20KG**

IN TANZANIA,  
GIRLS' SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS  
**15% HIGHER**  
WHEN THEIR HOMES ARE 15 MINUTES  
OR LESS FROM A WATER SOURCE.

WOMEN AND GIRLS WALK ON AVERAGE  
**6KM** EVERY DAY TO  
COLLECT WATER.

## HAVE A GO...

ROLL A TEA TOWEL INTO A SAUSAGE AS A HEAD REST. CAN YOU BALANCE A BUCKET WITH SOME WATER IN IT ON TOP OF YOUR HEAD? HOW FAR CAN YOU WALK?

Does this remind you of Rosina's story? What ways could we pray to be more like the woman at the well and Rosina?