

KIDZONE

SPY REPORTS ON JESUS 5

"We Pharisees have made up hundreds of rules for other people to obey. Now we've heard that Jesus is breaking our rules. This makes us very angry. You spies must go and investigate again."

This time the spies were sent to find out about Jesus' visit to Samaria. Here is a transcript of their report back to the Pharisees:



JESUS TAKES A SHORT-CUT

Pharisee: Well, you were away a long time. What have you discovered?

Spy: We found that Jesus went through Samaria.

Pharisee: I knew it! He's broken one of our rules: "Jews must not take the short-cut through Samaria". They have to go round the long way to by-pass that terrible place. Well, what happened there?

Spy: Jesus was tired and thirsty in the middle of a very hot day. He sat to rest beside a well of water. A Samaritan woman came by herself to get water from the well.

Pharisee: Why did she come by herself at the hottest time of the day? I'm sure she was a bad woman to have to come alone like that. Jesus didn't talk to her, did he?

Spy: He did. He asked her for a drink of water.

Pharisee: How shocking! That breaks two more of our rules. First: "A man must not talk with a woman." Second: "Jews must not share cups, plates or any drinking or eating things with Samaritans."

Spy: The woman was very surprised that Jesus talked to her. Jesus offered to give her living water and she was very interested. She was amazed to discover that Jesus knew all about her life and the wrong things she had done.

Pharisee: You mean that Jesus kept on talking with her even though he knew the wrong things she'd done?

Spy: He told her that he was the Messiah.

Pharisee: Preposterous!

Spy: She believed him, left her water pot behind and called everyone in the whole village to come and meet Jesus. They invited Jesus and his disciples to stay with them.

Pharisee: I hope Jesus didn't do that. That would break two more rules: "Jews must not share meals with Samaritans" and "Jews must not stay in Samaritans' homes".

Spy: Jesus stayed for two days and the whole village believed in him. When he left they all came to say goodbye. They told the woman: "We believe now, not just because you told us but we have seen and heard him ourselves."

Pharisee: What did they believe about Jesus?

Spy: They said, "We know that Jesus really is the Saviour of the world".



A full report is filed under John 4:3 – 42. Look it up and read it for yourself.

TOP SECRET REPORT

BE a SPY!



Write your Top Secret spy report and copy it into your Top Secret Notebook or computer file. To make your report change these rules of the Pharisees to say what Jesus did. Each time start with "Jesus..." The first one is done for you.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Jews must not go through Samaria | ➔ | Jesus went through Samaria. |
| A man must not talk with a woman | ➔ | Jesus |
| Jews must not eat meals with Samaritans | ➔ | Jesus |
| Jews must not stay in a Samaritan's home. | ➔ | Jesus |

Why do you think Jesus broke the Pharisees rules?

TOP SECRET VERSE

BE a SPY!

Can you work out this code message? The arrows show you how to start. Copy the message into your Top Secret Notebook or computer file and learn it by heart.

WAKEONTEAAJUSTSHEALLY
 BEANOWNHATMENUGROANLO
 ASKHOSTVIOLREFSHOWGRID
 INTOERAWINUFOATVETOELK

To check the message look up 1 John 4:42.



ANOTHER IDEA

Turn the story "Jesus Takes a Short Cut" into a play. You will need two or more people to read the parts. Perhaps you could record it.

KNOCK DOWN a WALL!

Sometimes there are walls you can't see that separate people and stop them talking and making friends with each other. There was a wall like that between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, because of the Pharisees' bad rules. When Jesus asked her for a drink of water he broke down the unseen wall.

Build a wall like that from seven cartons or blocks. Write labels on card and stick them with sellotape onto the cartons or blocks. Here are the words to put on the cards to make the labels:

GENDER	RACE	HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	CULTURE	RELIGION	RULES
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Talk with an older person about what these labels mean.

Now build a wall (or tower) from these cartons or blocks and KICK IT DOWN!

MAKE a NEW FRIEND

Is there someone at your school who hasn't many friends because of an unseen wall? Perhaps they are different in some way and so people don't like them. Be like Jesus. Knock down the wall and become their friend.