# **Disposition:** Being Fair and Just

## **Lesson:** Two

### **Question/LO:** What lessons do Christians draw from the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman? What does sacred story teach about fairness?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious worldviews | Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. John 4: 1-42    Explain the ‘history’ of the enmity between Jews and Samaritans.  *It is difficult to be precise, but it seems that antagonism between Jews and Samaritans began circa 4th Century BC because some Jews inter-married with people in the area which came to be known as Samaria. The division was compounded when the Samaritans built their own temple (on Mt Gerizim) rather than worship at the temple in Jerusalem.*  Explain the difference in status of a Rabbi and a woman.    *At the time of this story, women were considered to be of a lesser status than men. In a court of law it took the testimony of two women to equal the testimony of one man.*  Jesus set many other examples of treating others with respect and equality on the basis of gender, race, or religion, but in many ways this was probably the most shocking.  Comprehension exercise: In what way was Jesus’ behaviour shocking to those around him?   1. Jew did not associate with Samaritans (v9) 2. Rabbis (Holy men – teachers) did not associate with women, especially those who were ‘immoral’. The women’s behaviour in relationships with men would have been considered highly immoral (v27; vv17-18)   Write a brief speech or a letter to your MP advocating the elimination of discrimination on religious grounds. | Bible reference:  John 4: 1-42 |