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| ***Title:*** | ***Shechem and Sychar***  |
| **Goal/Objective:** | Show that the place where Joshua challenged Israel (Shechem) to fear and serve the LORD is the same place that Jesus went in response to John the Baptist’s announcement “He that believes on the Son has everlasting life…”Show that Jesus was showing by his travels to Sychar that the fulfillment demanded at Shechem is found in the Son of God. |
| **Scripture Passages:** | Joshua chapter 24, John 3:36-4:5 and Luke 20:17-18 [**click here for Scriptures**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/pages/ShechemSycharScriptures.htm) |
| **Materials:** | Large map of Israel showing Shechem and Sychar—preferably one that can be on the table for the students to maneuver on. A full map along with an enlarged map (that can be printed in four pages and taped together) is included in this lesson. [**click here for Maps**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/pages/ShechemSycharMaps.htm)Small plastic toys or basically anything to represent Joshua, the Israelites, Jesus, John the Baptist and the Pharisees (even crackers, M&Ms, carrot sticks, etc. can work and provide a snack)A small rockEnough rocks for each student to have one (I also have used bouncy balls from Oriental Trading Post that look like rocks but are much softer.)Permanent marker |
| **Introduction:** | We will compare the story where Joshua challenges all the people of Israel at a town called Shechem with the story where Jesus leaves Judaea and goes to a town in Samaria called Sychar. We will see that these two places are either in the same location or else very close to the same location and will look at what Joshua challenged the people to do, whether or not they could do it and how Jesus fulfills the requirement at Shechem. |
| **Development Activities:** | Take a large map of the area of Israel and lay it flat on the table. Show where Shechem and Sychar are. Also include on the map Galilee, Samaria and Judaea. Read the account in Joshua.Ask:“What did Joshua challenge Israel to do?” *fear and serve the LORD*“Did Joshua say they could do it?” *No*“What did they put next to the sanctuary to remind them of their promise?” *A Stone*Using small toys to represent Joshua and the people of Israel, have the students reenact the account in Joshua on the map. Have a small rock for them to place after the Israelites promise to serve God.This story sets the stage for an event that takes place many years later with Jesus:Read the account in John about Sychar. Show on the map where Jesus travels and that Shechem and Sychar are the same or close to the same place. Explain that the Pharisees were leaders in Israel and were proud in their service to God.Ask:“How do we have life?” *Believe on the Son*“Who is the Son?” *Jesus is the Son of God*“Is there any mention of serving the Lord in order to have life? *No*Again, have the students reenact the account in John using different toys (or snacks) to represent the different group of people.Read Luke 20:17-18Ask: “Who is the stone that was rejected?” *Jesus* |
| **Practice:** | With permanent marker, write Jesus on rocks that either the students find themselves outside or else ones that you have already gathered. Let the students further decorate them while you go over the lesson points in the “Checking for Understanding” section. |
| **Checking for Understanding:** | Were the Israelites able to serve the Lord? *No*Could the Pharisees serve the Lord? *No*Can we serve the Lord? *No (unless the students already understand that they can by the life of Christ within them)*If we can’t serve the Lord by our own efforts, where is our hope for life? *Believing on the Son, Jesus*How is the stone rejected? *By refusing to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and continuing to try to serve God apart from Him.*  |
| **Independent Practice:** | Send the rocks and crossword puzzle sheet home with each student. [**click here for crossword puzzle**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/pages/ShechemSycharPuzzle.htm) **and** [**puzzle answer sheet**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/pages/ShechemSycharPuzzleAnswers.htm) |