

Living Water – Come all you Thirsty

Isaiah 55:1-13

Free Invitation

1. What is our real need? What is promised? Explore the metaphor of thirst and living water. (See Is 55:1-3; 12-13; Rev 21:6)
2. How does this promise differ from what we might expect? How does this promise show us God's ways and thoughts are not our way of doing things? (See Is 55:1-3, 8-9)

Wide Invitation

3. What was the covenant (promise) made with David? How does that covenant point to Jesus? (2 Sam 7:8-16; Heb 7:22)
4. How is it the invitation can now be extended to all nations? (Is 55:3b - 5; Eph 2:12-13)

Response to the Invitation

5. Notice how we are invited to respond (Is 55:1 – 3). What does this mean in practice for your life today?
6. Christians often refer to the need for repentance. What does that involve (Is 55:6-7)?
7. As we share the invitation with our friends, family and beyond to all nations (Matt 28:19) what encouragement are we given (Is 55:10-13)?

Pray Together

Take some time to praise God for his grace and generous love for us. Pray for each other as you live out your response to his invitation on a day-to-day basis.

Living Water – Living Water or Broken Wells?

Jeremiah 2:1-13

1. The prophet Jeremiah was speaking to Israel, not to unbelievers. What was the problem he identified (Jer 2:11,13)?

Betrayal

2. Why does God see the worship of idols as betrayal? (Jer 2: 1-8, 20-25; Ex 20:3)
3. Today idols are those things we turn to quench our deepest needs. Tim Keller suggested the following to help us determine whether something in our lives is an idol. Do you find these helpful? What are some of the idols we are tempted by today?
 - a. What does your imagination turn to when you have a quiet moment?
 - b. What does your bank statement say about what is important to you?
 - c. What would upset you most if it was taken from your life? What arouses uncontrolled emotions for you when challenged?

Idols Deceive

4. Notice the absurdity of the contrast between what idols offer and what God offers (Jer 2:5, 11, 13). How do idols counterfeit what God has to offer?
5. In what way do idols enslave us?

Choose Living Water

6. What should the Israelites have done? (Jer 2:6-7)
7. It is impossible to get rid of idols in our lives through sheer willpower. What can we do to put the things we idolise into perspective and choose what is real? (Col 2:6-7; 3:2-3)

Pray Together

Take some time to give thanks to God for his love and all the good things he gives us. Pray for God's Spirit to help you identify anything you have idolised in your life and pray for grace to choose what is real, what God has offered.

Living Water for Eternal Life

John 4:1-30

In this story we see that God is opening up a new kingdom, a new way of relating and worshipping that all centres on Jesus. The key to understanding this new kingdom is understanding who Jesus is. As the story progresses, we are drawn into deeper and deeper levels of his identity.

1. Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. What do you know of Jewish/Samaritan and male/female interactions in Jesus' day? What does this interaction show us about Jesus? (Jn 4:7-9)
2. Jacob's well was fed by a spring. Compare what the woman thought Jesus meant by 'living water' and what Jesus was offering? (Jn 4:10-15)
3. The Samaritan woman didn't fully understand her real need. What do we learn about Jesus as he uncovers her real need and what caused her greatest pain? (Jn 4:16-19)
4. In v26 Jesus reveals to the woman his true identity. What does it mean for him to be 'Messiah'?
5. What aspects of Jesus' identity do you find helpful and reassuring? Are there levels of his identity you don't understand?
6. Notice how the woman responds to Jesus (v 15, 28-29) in this very personal interaction. How might we respond to Jesus the living water, prophet and Messiah in our own relationship with him?

Pray Together

Take time to praise Jesus for who he is.

Living Water – Never Again will they Thirst

Revelation 7: 9-17

1. Read through Rev 7:9-17. When, where and who is this passage referring to?

Sin

2. What is the significance of the multitudes wearing white robes? (Rev 7:9, 14; See also Ps 51:1-7)
3. What is your experience with sin in your life today? Do you relate to Paul's experience? (Rom 7:21-24)
4. How do we wash our robes/lives from sin? How can we be confident sin will be fully dealt with when Christ comes again? (Rom 7:25; 1Pet 3:18; 1John 1:9)

Pain & Distress

5. What are some of the distressing situations you are experiencing or have experienced in life? Do you relate to David's feeling of distress? (Ps 69:2-3)
6. What does God promise Christians? (Rev: 7:15-17) [Note: Rev 7:14 refers to distressing circumstances in general]
7. What does this mean for us today? (See 1 Pet 5:7)

Living Water

8. What do you recall from the last few weeks about living water? What does it mean to be thirsty for living water?
9. What does God promise Christians? (Rev 7:17; Jn 4:13-14)

Pray Together

The multitude before the throne praised God (Rev 7: 10, 12); Take time to praise God together for all he has promised us.