

## Life Group #6: Living Water John 7:37-39

**Objectives:** We want to see Jesus as the only one who can quench our thirst. We want to identify the other places we seek to get our thirst quenched besides Jesus. We want to help students see how they can practically come to Jesus.

*Note to leaders- The Christian life is not meant to be something we just grind out alone. For the next 3 weeks we are going to look at 3 incredible gifts the Lord gives us to live as Christ followers- the Holy Spirit, community and the Word.*

### Vision for your Life Group

We are halfway through the semester. Your Life Group has probably taken on an identity. Some things you will like and you will wish others things are true of the group. Use this time to cast vision for what you hope the Life Group would be like. Or you can have a discussion and allow the group to shape itself...

### Background

*Our passage for today takes place during the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast was an 8-day holiday where Jewish people would live in small booths (shacks) in Jerusalem. The festival was instituted to remember the time their ancestors lived in similar shacks while wandering the desert for 40 years after the Exodus from Egypt. It was also a time where they looked forward to the coming Messiah (or Christ). They were longing for the time when the Christ would come to rescue His people the way that God rescued his people from Egypt.*

*On the last day of the feast the High Priest would gather with everyone in front of the temple. The crowd would follow the priest to the pool of Siloam to see him fill a large golden pitcher with water. They would make their way back to the front of the temple where the priest would pour out the pitcher of water to remember how God provided water in the desert. In the Middle East, water is life. Without water, there can be no life. At that moment Isaiah 12:3 was read aloud: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." This is the backdrop for our passage for today. While this was in the mind of the people, Jesus stood up and said:*

### Explore

Read John 7:37-39

- **It was a bold move by Jesus to stand up and speak at this exact moment. What do you think Jesus was claiming about Himself?** (He is the source of life. He is the one who can

*bring salvation. He is the only one that can quench our true thirst. He is the promised Christ.)*

**Read 7:40-44**

- **How did the crowd respond?** (some believed he was the Prophet or Christ, some were not sure, others wanted to arrest him.)

We know that people respond the same way today. Some believe and follow Jesus. Some are not sure but are seeking to learn more. Others hate Jesus. If you are unsure, we want to meet up with you to walk with you as you seek to learn more. For the rest of the study, we are going to answer the question- how do we respond to Jesus if we believe he is the Christ or Messiah.

- **Re-read 7:37-38. What does Jesus call us to do in these verses?** (recognize our thirst, come to Jesus and drink, believe he is the Christ)
- **What does he promise will happen if we do this?** (rivers of living water will flow out of our heart)
- **What do you think he means by this word picture?** (In the Middle East it only rains a few months out of the year. Therefore, water is either stored in cisterns or is saltwater. Living water is fresh, flowing, life-giving water. This imagery is meant to contrast the stagnant water of cisterns or saltwater which makes you more thirsty. Spiritually, Jesus is offering us something that will quench the thirst of our soul.)
- **Does this promise sound good to you? Why or why not?**
- **How does this promise contrast with your view of the Christian life?**

### Apply (in small groups)

We are going to get very practical tonight...

- **The verb tense in 7:37 indicates that coming to Jesus is not a one-time deal. The verse could literally be translated "keep coming and keep drinking" from Jesus. What are ways we can keep coming and keep drinking from Jesus?** (There are tons of possibilities. Time with God in the Bible, prayer, worship, Life Group, etc...)

Jesus was using imagery that his audience would have known from the Bible. We are going to focus in on one verse that uses that imagery.

**Read Jeremiah 2:12-13.**

- **In your own words, what is God accusing the people of doing?**
- **How does this Jeremiah passage help us understand what Jesus is teaching?**
- **What are “broken cisterns” in your life that you are tempted to drink from instead of the living water of Jesus?**
- **Why do we turn to these cisterns instead of Jesus?**
- **What are signs in our life that indicate we may be drinking from broken cisterns?**  
*(your thirst is not quenched, living water is not flowing from within you)*
  
- **What is one practical step you can do this week to come to Jesus and drink?** *(There are many answers: learn how to come to Jesus to drink; schedule regular times to drink from Jesus; recognize when you are thirsty; keep coming to Jesus when you are thirsty outside of your scheduled times; repent from the broken cisterns and turn to Jesus)*
- **To help us “come to Jesus and drink” we are going to do a 14 day devotional together called Thirsty. We are going to pair up for accountability.**
- **<https://www.cruatstate.com/more-resources>**
- **End with prayer in small groups. Take time to confess the broken cisterns you normally turn to and ask Jesus to fill you...**