

JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

LENT 2023 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 3: JESUS AND THE DIFFERENT WATER

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

REFLECTION

They are at an ancient water source, but Jesus is pointing to a source beyond that, a source he knows personally.

Immersed in water is the first time Jesus hears God's voice.
[Matt 3:16-17]

He offers communion through water.

The living water that is ours in baptism should startle the world and flow past old sad divisions

The best test of living water... it gives life to us and others

~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read John 4:5-42. The story of Jesus' offer of living water to the woman at the well, and the difference it made.

Read any of the following:

These are Scripture verses about water:

[John 7:37-38](#), [Isaiah 43:19-21](#), [Genesis 2:5-10](#), [Rev. 22:1-3](#), [Isaiah 41:17-18](#), [Isaiah 44:3](#), [Isaiah 58:11-12](#), [Psalm 1:1-3](#)

Read BCP 304-305. The Baptismal Covenant.

DISCUSSION

- Share a story about a time when you heard God's voice (see Matt 3:16-17) Maybe it wasn't audible, but you knew God was speaking to you. Describe that experience and the context.
- Which Scriptures about water are your favorite? Why?
- What difference does your being baptized make in your own life and in the world? How does it shock the world when you offer communion rather than division?
- Where do you need God's living water in your life right now?
- How is Jesus' living water springing up in you and through you to others these days? How do you want it to?

ARTICLES

For Further Study:

Read more about meetings at wells throughout the Bible, and the significance of how John uses this story of a meeting at well:

<https://bibleproject.com/blog/jesus-offers-living-water-and-marriage/>

PRAYER

*Spring up, O Well, within my soul.
Spring up, O Well, and make me whole.
Spring up O Well, and give to me that life abundantly.*

I've got a river of life flowing out of me, makes the lame to walk and the blind to see. Open prison doors, sets the captives free.

~Song Lyrics by Phil Wickham

<https://g.co/kgs/MF7tdM>

TAKE-AWAY

Listen to these and other praise songs about Water:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0XkduP70YSTKjieObUFuVhbDU1Bd5NzH>

Think of one specific way for living water to flow through you to bless someone this week.

You might consider donating so others have clean water around the world, since physical water can bridge to meeting spiritual needs

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/program/clean-water/>