

LIVING WATER

THIRST NO MORE

Discussion Guide: Living Water

Main Text: John 7:37-38 | **Supporting Text:** Nehemiah 8:1-14

The Big Idea

Religion often carries the "golden flask"—a beautiful vessel that holds water but cannot create it. Jesus stood at the Water Gate to announce that He is the "Gihon Spring"—the tireless, living source that turns our dry hearts into flowing rivers.

Part 1: The Scene at the Water Gate

Read John 7:37-38 and review the historical context of the Water Libation.

1. **The Interruption:** Imagine the scene—thousands of people cheering, trumpets blowing, and a priest pouring water on the altar. Suddenly, Jesus shouts over the noise. Why do you think He chose the "loudest" moment of the festival to make His invitation?
2. **Subject vs. Source:** The sermon mentioned that Jesus doesn't want to just be the *subject* of our rituals (the thing we talk about); He wants to be the *source* (the thing we live by). In your daily life, how do you distinguish between "practicing religion" and "drinking from the source"?
3. **Living Water:** In the ancient world, "living water" referred to a natural, flowing spring (like the Gihon) rather than stagnant cistern water. Where are you currently tempted to look for "water" that eventually goes stagnant (e.g., career, approval, entertainment)?

Part 2: The Open Square (Nehemiah 8)

Read Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8-10.

1. **The Common Ground:** The Water Gate was a public square where everyone—men, women, and children—could gather, unlike the restricted inner courts of the Temple. What does this tell us about God's desire for how His Word and His Spirit should be accessed?
2. **Clear Explanation:** In Nehemiah 8:8, the leaders helped the people understand the Law clearly. **Read Romans 8:3-4.** How does understanding that Jesus *fulfilled* the Law's requirements change the way you feel about your own "spiritual performance"?
3. **Mourning to Dancing:** When the people heard the Word at the Water Gate, they wept. But Nehemiah told them to go and feast instead (v. 10). Why is "godly sorrow" or repentance a necessary step before we can truly experience the joy of the Holy Spirit?

Part 3: The Outflow

Read Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:3-4.

1. **The Baptism Connection:** Peter's first sermon in Acts 2 happened just yards away from this same Water Gate area. He calls them to be baptized. How does the imagery of being "buried in water" and "raised to new life" reflect the transition from a dry desert to a living river?
2. **From Within:** Jesus said that living water would flow *out* of our hearts (John 7:38).
 - Is your spiritual life currently feeling more like a "reservoir" (holding it in) or a "river" (flowing out to others)?
 - Who in your life right now is "thirsty," and how can you be a conduit of "living water" to them this week?

Closing Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of "spiritual dehydration." Pray that each person would drop their "golden flasks" of self-effort and rely entirely on the flow of the Spirit.

Sticky Thought for the Week: > *"Religion carries the flask; Jesus is the Fountain. Stop trying to carry the water and start letting the Water carry you."*