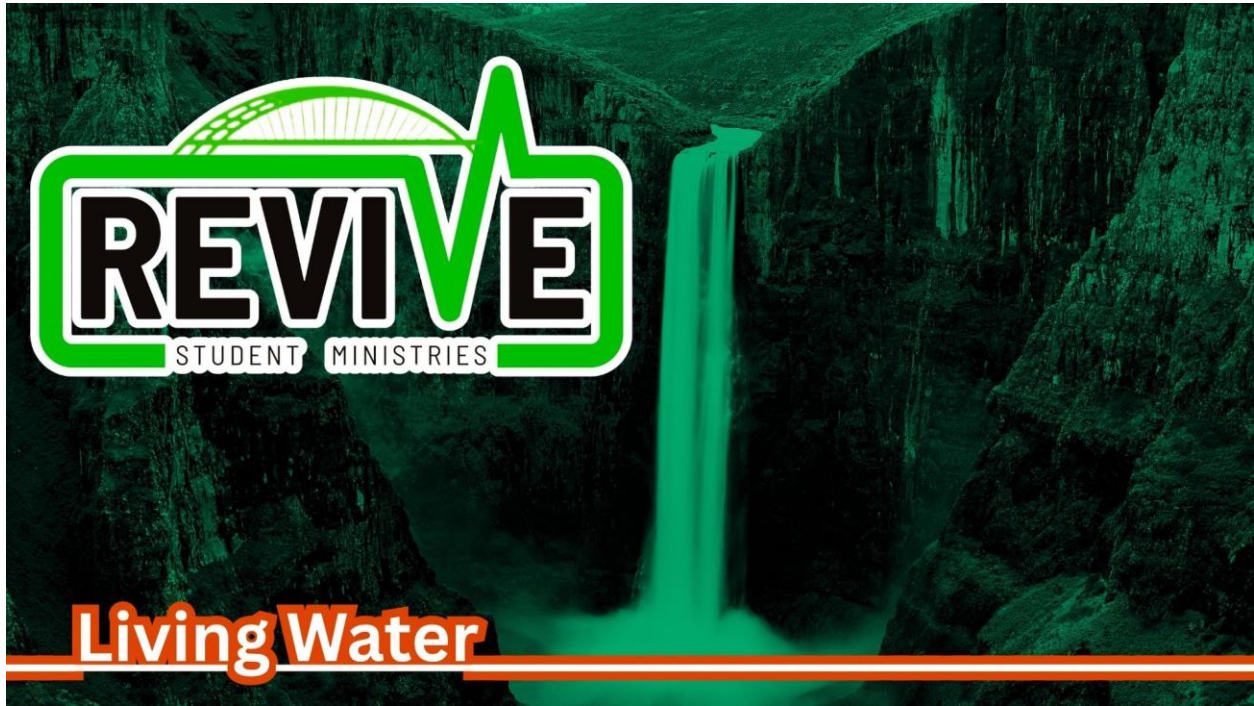


## Small Group Guide: The Life-Giving Water of Jesus



### **Summary:**

Have you ever considered the profound significance of water in our spiritual journey? This message takes us on of water's role in Scripture, from its destructive power in Noah's flood to its life-giving properties in the desert. We're reminded of how God used water to purify the earth and later to sustain His people. The story of Moses striking the rock to provide water for the Israelites isn't just a historical account - it's a powerful metaphor for our own need for spiritual sustenance. As we reflect on these stories, we're challenged to consider: Are we, like the Israelites, quick to complain when faced with difficulties, or do we trust in God's provision? This message invites us to see Jesus as the ultimate source of living water, the One who can quench our deepest spiritual thirst and bring life out of death. How might our lives change if we truly embraced Jesus as our life-giving water?

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Water is essential for life but can also be destructive and purifying in Scripture.
2. God used water as both judgment and cleansing in the flood (Genesis 6).
3. Water from the rock in Exodus symbolizes God's provision in difficult times.
4. Jesus declared Himself as the source of living water during the Feast of Tabernacles.
5. Jesus fulfills the Old Testament symbolism of water as life-giving and purifying.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon mentions how we often take access to clean water for granted. How can this realization change our perspective on everyday blessings?
2. Reflect on the Israelites' complaints about water in the desert. How do we sometimes display similar attitudes towards God's provision in our lives?
3. How does understanding Jesus as the "life-giving water" deepen your appreciation for His role in your spiritual life?
4. The sermon draws parallels between water's purifying properties and Jesus' ability to cleanse us from sin. How does this imagery impact your understanding of salvation?
5. Discuss the significance of Jesus choosing the Feast of Tabernacles to declare Himself as the source of living water. Why was this timing important?
6. How does Jesus' experience of human suffering (as mentioned in the sermon) affect your relationship with Him?

### **Practical Applications:**

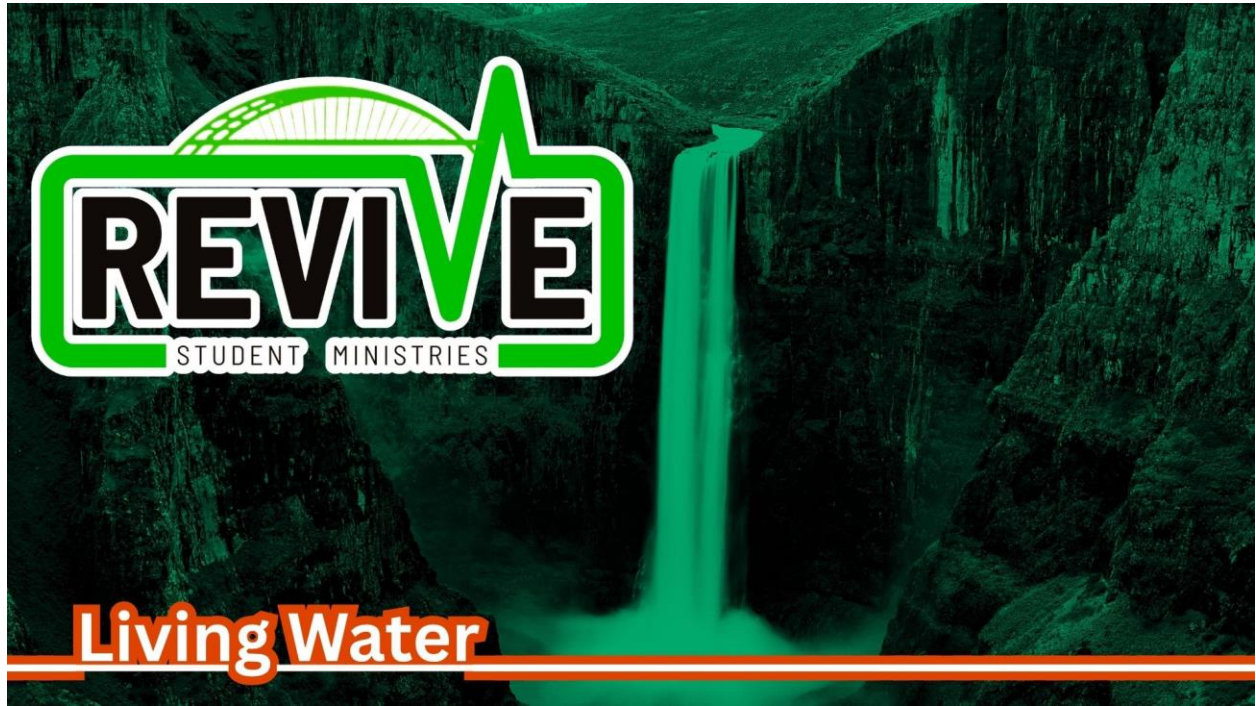
1. This week, each time you drink water, take a moment to thank God for His provision and reflect on Jesus as the living water.
2. Identify an area in your life where you might be "grumbling" like the Israelites. How can you shift your perspective to one of gratitude?
3. Research a clean water charity and consider ways your group could support efforts to provide clean water to those in need.
4. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you rely more fully on Jesus as your source of spiritual life and refreshment.
5. Share with the group one way you can be more intentional about "drinking" from the living water of Christ in your daily life.

### **Closing Prayer**

### **Scripture for Further Study:**

- John 4:1-26 (Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well)
- Revelation 22:1-5 (The river of life in the New Jerusalem)
- Isaiah 55:1-3 (Invitation to the thirsty)

### 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



#### **Day 1: The Life-Giving Water**

**Reading:** John 7:37-39

#### **Devotional:**

Jesus stood up at the Feast of Tabernacles and declared Himself to be the source of living water. This powerful metaphor reminds us that just as water is essential for physical life, Jesus is essential for spiritual life. Reflect on areas in your life where you feel spiritually dry or thirsty. How can you draw closer to Jesus, the living water, to quench that thirst? Consider ways you can "drink deeply" of Christ's presence through prayer, worship, and studying His Word. Remember, Jesus offers this living water freely to all who believe in Him.

## **Day 2: God's Provision in the Desert**

**Reading:** Exodus 17:1-7

### **Devotional:**

The Israelites' experience in the desert mirrors our own spiritual journeys. Despite God's faithfulness, we often grumble and doubt when faced with difficulties. Yet God, in His mercy, continues to provide. The water from the rock symbolizes God's grace in seemingly impossible situations. Where in your life do you need to trust God's provision more fully? Identify a challenging circumstance you're facing and pray for God to reveal His presence and provision in unexpected ways. Let this story remind you that God can bring forth blessings even from the hardest places in your life.

## **Day 3: Cleansing and Purification**

**Reading:** Psalm 51:1-12

### **Devotional:**

Water in Scripture often symbolizes cleansing and purification. Just as the priests had to wash before entering the holy place, we too need spiritual cleansing to approach God. David's psalm is a heartfelt cry for this cleansing after his sin. Spend time in honest self-examination. Are there areas of your life that need God's purifying touch? Confess these to God, knowing that He is faithful to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). Thank Jesus for being the ultimate source of purification, washing away our sins through His sacrifice on the cross.

#### **Day 4: Christ in Our Suffering**

**Reading:** Hebrews 4:14-16

##### **Devotional:**

The sermon emphasized that Jesus is not distant from our human experiences, including suffering. He endured worse than we ever will, yet remained perfect. This passage in Hebrews beautifully captures Christ's ability to sympathize with our weaknesses. Reflect on a current struggle or pain in your life. How does knowing that Jesus understands and has experienced human suffering change your perspective? Approach God's throne of grace with confidence today, bringing your burdens to Him. Ask for His strength and comfort in your time of need.

#### **Day 5: New Life Through Baptism**

**Reading:** Romans 6:1-11

##### **Devotional:**

The flood narrative in Genesis prefigures baptism – judgment and cleansing through water, followed by new life. Paul expands on this imagery, linking baptism to our identification with Christ's death and resurrection. Consider your own baptism or your need for baptism if you haven't taken that step. How does being "buried with Christ" and "raised to new life" impact your daily walk? Identify one area where you need to "consider yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to live out this new life, letting Christ's resurrection life flow through you to others.