

JESUS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR
SERIES: GOD IS THE MESSAGE - I AM THE MESSENGER

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13; John 7:38; Revelation 7:17

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 4:13-14

“Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

BIG IDEAS

- False saviors always leave us empty and dry.
- Living water comes through right worship.
- Jesus pursues us in our brokenness and emptiness.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 4:1-45

KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ that brings salvation to sinners.
- Salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Jesus followers have been trusted with the gospel in order to share it with others.



Every student should strive to...

- Share the gospel each month with at least one person who does not know Jesus.
- Practice sharing the gospel using multiple different tools or methods.



Every student should feel...

- Humbled that as believers we have been entrusted with the glorious gospel of our Savior.
- Satisfied in Jesus as the only true Savior



Every student should want...

- To grow in awareness of the false saviors they are tempted to put their hope in.
- To have a softened heart and love for people who are lost
- To take advantage of opportunities to share the gospel with people in their lives who need Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 4:13-14

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Anything other than Jesus leaves us empty.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again...’”

- We are all born drinking water that leaves us thirsty because we are all born sinful. Our sinful hearts lead us away from God, the giver of eternal life. We pursue earthly, temporal things to fill the emptiness inside of us, yet those things just leave us feeling more empty. We continue searching for some new thing to fill the void in our souls, but we again find ourselves feeling empty.
- When we seek material things, wealth, relationships, and other fleshly things, they leave us empty inside and make us harder and callous to the truth. We end up pursuing futile, meaningless things that never really bring us the joy and satisfaction we’re longing to have.

Jesus is the living water that fully satisfies.

“...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.”

- When Jesus offered the Samaritan woman water that quenches all thirst, He offered her Himself as the Messiah of the world. He is the living water that fills up those who repent and believe in Him. Jesus is the one true Savior who came to the world and lived the perfect life that we could not. Because He is the Savior, when we trust Him with our lives, we are fully satisfied.
- A saving faith in Jesus fills up the believer and satisfies the longing in their souls. Jesus is the One we all long for because our sin separates us from Him until we repent and believe.

The living water produces eternal life.

“The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

- Not only does Jesus fully satisfy the believer, but He gives eternal life and eternal satisfaction to them. When we repent of our sinfulness and believe that Jesus’ death satisfies our sin debt, we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills the emptiness inside of us and works to make us more like Christ.
- Not only are we filled up, but we receive eternal life. Because we have the living water, we will spend our eternity with Christ, never to be parted from Him again. This means that our satisfaction will be complete and forever.

JESUS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

BIG IDEA #1: FALSE SAVIORS LEAVE US EMPTY AND DRY.¹

[THIS]

In John 4, we encounter Jesus and a Samaritan woman at a well in Samaria. Jesus and His disciples had chosen to travel through Samaria and while the disciples were away looking for food, Jesus engaged the woman at the well. This story highlights that in our flesh, we seek satisfaction in temporal, empty things. The Samaritan woman's life was empty and hopeless. She did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah at first. He had not become her Savior, redeeming her from her futile life. Her life was full meaningless things. She had five former husbands and the man she was currently living with was not her husband. She had sought happiness and fulfillment in the world and relationships. Yet, she was left empty and still seeking. She was spiritually dead, living in a dry and parched land. Her pursuit of a husband had left her empty and alone. She gathered water in the middle of the day instead of in the early morning with the other women. She sought fulfillment in men and always found herself empty. False saviors will always leave us empty and still searching.

[THEREFORE]

What are some false saviors that you have placed your trust in? How have false saviors failed you in the past?

Often, we look to tangible things to bring us hope and to fulfill us. We look to other relationships or things of this world that will all fade away instead of looking to the true Savior. 1 Peter 1:24 reminds us that everything on the earth will fade away. It will wither and die. If we trust in other people, they may move away or pass away. If we trust in money or material things, they could all be lost in a moment. False saviors are not real saviors.

How can you help someone else see the emptiness of placing hope in false saviors?

In John 1:4, 5:21, and 6:63, we see that Jesus is life. He gives life and He gives it abundantly. Hoping in anything else will lead us to an empty and dry land. We will be like the Samaritan woman seeking fulfillment in empty things. We help others see the futility of the things of this world by living for the one true Savior and sharing our own personal experiences in being fulfilled by Him.

[THIS]

There are many false saviors in this world. Position, wealth, success, and relationships can become the things we seek to fulfill us when only God can satisfy our greatest longing. These false saviors lead us away from God and produces a meaningless, empty existence. The Samaritan woman's life was an example of pursuing false saviors. She was empty as she stood at the well that day gathering water. She had seemingly had many relationships, yet none of them had satisfied her. We, too, have dry and empty lives when we seek satisfaction in false saviors.

[THEREFORE]

How does the story of the Samaritan woman help you understand that true satisfaction is found in Christ alone?

In John 4:1-45, Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman serves as a guide for us. Her life was empty when she met Jesus at the well, but after knowing Him, she walked away with the knowledge that there was something greater. Our satisfaction can only be found in Jesus, the one and true Savior.

1. 1 John 4:1: False teachers will arise to attempt to deceive us. We must recognize the right Savior in order to identify the false saviors

JESUS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

BIG IDEA #2: LIVING WATER COMES THROUGH RIGHT WORSHIP.²

[THIS]

In John 4:20-25, Jesus shows the Samaritan woman the connection between worship and living water. Just as Jesus offered living water to the woman, He offers this water to all those who truly believe in Him. The living water is His presence inside of every person who repents and believes. This water is eternal and results in believers seeing the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught the woman at the well that He is the Messiah, the one who had come to save the world. Her own ideas of worship were misguided and wrong. It is only through Jesus that anyone can truly live and live fully. Eternal life is possible only through the living water that is given to all those who turn from their sin and believe in Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

In John 4, Jesus reveals that everyone is a worshiper and what you worship is what you give your heart to. What has your heart today?

In Hebrews 12:28-29, we are reminded of the great work that God has done in saving us and the promise He has given of His coming kingdom. When we worship God as our true Savior, we reveal that we do indeed have living water inside of us. This is true because without the living water, we are spiritually dead and can only worship temporal, empty things.

Right worship begins with heart change. What has changed in your heart since God opened your eyes to Jesus being “the fountain of living water”?

When we have the eyes of our hearts opened to the truth about who Jesus is, our worship changes. Ezekiel 35:26 shows us that we are new people when we have saving faith. When we realize that Jesus is the living water that fills us up, our hearts are forever changed.

[THIS]

Jesus told the Samaritan woman in John 4 that He could give her water that would end all of her thirsting. In order for her to drink this everlasting water, she would have to worship the true Savior. If we do not recognize the true Savior, there's no way we can drink the everlasting water He gives. When our hearts are turned toward Jesus and we worship Him as the one true God, we will have the living water Jesus offers. Living water comes to us when we worship rightly. When the object of our worship is Jesus alone and we seek everything from Him, living our lives to please Him for His glory and our good, we will have the living water that quenches all of our thirst.

[THEREFORE]

What are some things that have distracted you from worshipping Jesus alone?

In 1 Corinthians 7:34-35 when Paul teaches about marriage, he reminds us that our hearts are constantly distracted. The things of this world can distract us from truly worshipping Jesus. We may lose focus, but if we have the living water, we will always return to Jesus as our sole object of worship because having the living water means having the Spirit inside of us transforming us to be more like Christ.

What are some other objects of worship that lead people away from worshipping the true Savior?

In Luke 9:23, 14:33, and 21:34-35, we see that the things of this world can lead us away from worshipping the true Savior. When we are consumed with ourselves and unwilling to submit our lives to Christ, we will miss out on the living water. When we become distracted with the worries of daily life, we can miss out on truly worshipping Christ. Instead, we focus on the things of this world that we really can't control anyway. Jesus calls us to worship Him alone. They live for God.

2. John 4:20-25: Jesus guides the Samaritan woman to an understanding that to rightly worship, one must worship the true Savior.

JESUS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

BIG IDEA #3: JESUS PURSUES US IN OUR BROKENNESS AND EMPTINESS.³

[THIS]

In John 4:4, John writes that Jesus had to pass through Samaria on His way to Galilee. Though passing through Samaria was the more direct and efficient route from Judea to Galilee, most Jews would choose to go around Samaria because of their poor relations with the Samaritans. The Samaritans were considered infidels by the Jews and they did not associate with them. Jesus chose to go through Samaria and by doing so, He made a statement about Himself and the salvation that is available to all who believe. This salvation is available only because Jesus pursues sinners through His Spirit. Jesus went to Samaria and He chose the exact well that the Samaritan woman was at. It is safe to say that Jesus knew she would be there because He is fully God and all-knowing. Jesus pursued the Samaritan woman, offering her salvation while she was still broken and empty, having done nothing to deserve His mercy and grace. He offered her new life, not because she deserved it, but because of His great love, mercy, and grace. We are all blind to the truth about God. It is His drawing of us and the opening of our eyes that enables us to see our need for Him and the salvation He offers.

[THEREFORE]

How are you personally experiencing brokenness and emptiness? Why do we experience brokenness and emptiness?

We may experience the consequences of our sinful actions and we experience the darkness of this world. We experience this brokenness because of our sinful natures. 1 Corinthians 2:14 shows us that in our flesh we do not understand the truth about God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 further explains the blinding that happens to us because of the prince of this world.

What great hope does the Samaritan woman's story bring you for the unbelievers you pray for?

Psalm 139:7-8 speaks to the truth that God's people cannot escape Him. His Spirit draws His people to Him and opens their eyes to see their need of salvation. Just as the Samaritan woman was pursued by Jesus, all believers are drawn to God by the work of His Spirit in their hearts and minds.

[THIS]

The Samaritan woman did nothing to deserve Jesus' offer of living water. She did not send a message asking Him to stop at her well. She was focused on her life, living it according to the futility of her mind. We also do nothing to deserve God's grace in our lives. It is God who chooses to open our eyes and draw us to Himself. He pursues us even while we are still sinners, living in our rebellion and rejection of Him. He seeks us out and though we are broken and empty, offers us eternal life with Him. He gives us new life and transforms us from dry and empty to full and flourishing.

[THEREFORE]

How can you discuss with someone how Jesus pursues us and offers us living water that satisfies our emptiness and fixes our brokenness?

The knowledge that the God of the universe pursues us and seeks us out is overwhelming and can produce and awe and worship of Him. As you seek to share with others this wonderful truth, you can share your own personal story of salvation. 1 Peter 2:9 tells us that God's people are a chosen race. Sharing with others the personal way you saw God open your own eyes can help them see the ways God is pursuing them.

3. John 4:4: Jesus chose to travel through Samaria to get to Galilee. He was intentional and purposeful in going through Samaria.