



STUDY GUIDE

September 4, 2022

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

On the Water
Living Water
Tanner Iglio

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What's your favorite romantic comedy?

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for the opportunity to grow stronger through this study. We ask that You clear out any debris blocking any flow of Your Spirit within us. In order for Your living water to flow out of our hearts and lives, we need replenishing and healing in the broken parts of our soul. We thirst and recognize Your offer of refreshment. It's in Jesus' name that we receive it. Amen.

Get Started:

- Have you ever visited a dam? What was most powerful about seeing it in person?

"For thousands of years now, Christ Followers have done an even better job of holding back a force capable of forming a whole new world entirely. One built on love, fully sustained by God. Brick by brick we've built barriers that only allow a trickle of living water to seep through. Just enough for people on the outside to think they know what Jesus is all about. But really... It's trickling through our bricks labeled: Judgment. Bias. Hypocrisy. Greed. Democrat. Republican. Addiction. Favoritism. Selfishness. Ego. Pursuit of status. We've taken this love that we've received and kept it over here where we control it and created a valley of emptiness on the other side. Nowadays when I look around and listen to what people outside of the church have to say about the church, I see a lot of skepticism, fear, anger, any number of negative opinions. If we want to truly help people change the way they live, we have to change the way we approach them. Someone will allow you to speak into their lives if you take the time to listen to them, first. When someone feels that you truly know them and that you actually care about what's in their best interest, they will ask you how your life is so different? How do you have so much peace and hope? How do you love so genuinely in a broken world? Then you can answer them like the guards did the priests. "Jesus is just different." He has loved me and changed me, and He can do the same for you. We don't need to speak words of condemnation. We don't need to exclude people because of where they've been, what they've done, or what sin they are currently committing. We need to show them who Jesus is. The King of Peace. Full of grace. Friend to tax collectors, prostitutes, adulterers, you name it! Jesus got so close to broken people, not because He wanted to condone their behavior, but because He knew that a relationship with Him was the only way they could truly be whole and know fulfillment. We have to know that too. Jesus is the only way we can be free and the only way we can really free people is by getting them close to Jesus." -Pastor Tanner Iglio

- What are some of the "bricks" you see built by the Church as a whole that act as barriers preventing the pouring out the living waters that Jesus provides? Why do you think this is?
- Is there a time where you have been able to point someone towards Christ in an impactful way? What happened? (Alternatively, share a time you have seen this happen or been on the receiving end of this scenario).

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22.

- What does it mean to always be ready with an answer? What should our lives look like, in modeling living water, so that people are even inclined to ask?

- How does this passage align with Pastor Tanner's powerful point he made when he said the following? **Jesus restores us, and through us, Jesus restores the world.**

Reflect and Commit:

"God will continually refresh us if we stay connected to the source. If we KNOW God in an intimate relationship, He will provide. It might not be on our timelines or in the exact way that we think it should be, but He is faithful to deliver. We can build our lives on His promises and His hope and once we've done that, He gives us the opportunity to be a part of restoring the people around us, by leading them to Jesus. But oftentimes, we don't get it right. We forget what it's really all about.

God's plan to restore the world began and ended with Jesus. He is all we need, but we can pollute the waters with what WE think and what WE want. And if we represent Jesus as something He is not, then we can do serious damage. We can add so many bricks that eventually nothing gets through.

As Jesus fills you, break down the walls we've collectively built for long and push back the darkness that feels like it's all around us so that others can see who Jesus truly is. His glory and his power. Get rid of the anger. Get rid of the hate. Drop the hurtful words. Leave your judgment behind. Offer forgiveness. Be the first to say that you were wrong and you're sorry. Be humble. Be kind. Be a representative of His love and His grace in everything you do. Represent the restoration that you've received in His name. Let His spirit and life, this living water that He has given to you, flood into the world around you." -Pastor Tanner Iglia

Read John 4:14 and John 7:25-38. (if time read John 7 in full)

- Why does "the world" (John 7:7) hate Jesus? How is that different today?
- If time, consider researching the Festival of Tabernacles so you more fully understand the significance of Jesus' statements in John 7. What did Jesus mean by "out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38)? What was the effect of Jesus' declaration in John 7:37-38?
- Who is on your mind that you feel needs to see, by your example, what the scripture speaks of about "**rivers of living water will flow from his heart**"? If no one comes to mind, take time to pray & listen as you ask God to reveal someone who you could show God's love to this week. Take a minute prior to praying as a group to pray individually for these people.

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. -Revelation 22:1-2

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank You that Your Living Water flows freely to replenish our weary souls. It's amazing that You even use our struggles and trials to broaden the outflow of Your Spirit, which breaks through any barriers holding us back from the fullest life. Our thirst is quenched. We are grateful Jesus restores us, and through us, restores the world. It's in His name that we pray. Amen.