



So That You May Know *The Living Water*

John 7:1-25-52

Dgroup's Curriculum: Leader's Copy

WORSHIP

Consider reading **Psalm 66** together, taking turns reading a verse at a time, or reading responsively with the leader reading a verse and the group responding with the next verse. You can discuss the Psalms you read and share what they mean to you.

WELCOME

Questions. Have you ever received an award or a reward? For what did you receive it? Tell us the story.

WORD

Discussion Questions:

1. We said in the message that Jesus has already told people that He is the manna that came down from heaven and now He is telling people that He is the water that came from the rock. What does He mean by saying this? What should it tell us about our need for Jesus?

Answer:

Let them discuss this. (Read John 7:37-38.) When Jesus told the people that He was the manna that came down from Heaven, He was telling them that ONLY HE could meet their needs. During the time that Israel was stranded in the Wilderness, God gave them manna from Heaven. The manna was the only thing that God provided as food that would keep them alive. There were no peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches available for people who didn't want to eat manna. So, if someone decided that they would rather not have manna, they would die of starvation. The manna was the only thing that would keep them alive. In the case of the water, a day came when there was no water for the people in the Wilderness to drink and God provided the water they needed by causing it to flow out of the rock. Now Jesus is saying that not only is He the manna – the stuff that keeps us alive – He is also the water from the rock – the only thing that will quench our thirst. Jesus cannot be ONE of the solutions in our lives; He must be the ONLY solution in our lives. We can't add Jesus to what we already believe, and we can't hope that He will fit Himself in to what we already have. He must be the ONE and ONLY in our lives if we want to have life from God and be satisfied day by day. Life and Satisfaction comes from Christ and nowhere else.

2. We said in the message that there is a way that we can tell if a person has the Spirit of God in their life. How can we tell and what should that mean for our lives?

Answer:

Let them discuss this. (Read John 7:39.) If a person has believed in Jesus, if they have trusted Jesus as their Savior, then they have become Jesus' follower. If you are Jesus' follower, then

the Spirit of God is living within you, and if the Spirit of God is living within you, He 'bubbles' out of you like a spring of water. He flows from you into the lives of the thirsty people around you. That's part of the character of the Spirit of God. He lives within us, but He is constantly reaching through us to the people we know and love. In other words, people who have trusted Christ as their Savior share the Good News about Jesus with other people – that's all there is to it! Help the group to understand that if the Spirit is within them, He will prompt them to tell others about Jesus. If they learn to EXPECT this then they can be prepared for the moment when the Spirit of God gives them an opportunity to stand up and speak out. They don't need to be rude, but they shouldn't be shy either. Let's begin letting the Spirit of God speak through us to others who still need to hear.

3. We said in the message that the Sanhedrin did not like it when people began to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. We said that they started doing 'spin control'. What did they do and say to keep people from thinking that Jesus was the Messiah?

Answer:

Let them discuss this. (Read John 7:41-44.) The Sanhedrin reminded everyone that the Messiah was supposed to come from Bethlehem in Judea, not Nazareth in Galilee. Most likely the Sanhedrin had taken the time to do the research and had discovered that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, but that would be something that they would not tell the crowds that were following Him. The rumor was that Jesus was from Nazareth in Galilee and that was indeed the place where He had grown up, but it wasn't the place where He was born. In any event, we can be sure that when people said that Jesus came from Galilee, the Sanhedrin would not correct that wrong thinking. They preferred that people believe that Jesus was from Galilee because that fueled the idea that He could not be the Messiah. If it had become widely known that He was born in Bethlehem in Judea more and more people would have believed in Him and that was something that the Sanhedrin wanted to avoid at all costs.

4. We said in the message that Nicodemus showed up again at the end of chapter 7. In what way does Nicodemus remind us of ourselves? In what way is he like us?

Answer:

Let them discuss this. (Read John 7:50-51.) Nicodemus does show up at the end of the chapter. We remember him from his conversation with Jesus in chapter 3 when Nicodemus said that he KNEW that God was with Jesus because of the miracles that Jesus was doing. Jesus told Nicodemus that he MUST be born again, and at the end of the conversation when Nicodemus left, we are not sure how he responded to Jesus. There is no record that he decided not to believe Jesus, but there is also no record that he believed. Now, in the end of chapter 7 Nicodemus is back and he is taking the time to defend Jesus by suggesting that the Sanhedrin should hear what Jesus has to say before they condemn Him, but that's all he's doing. He makes no effort to tell the other members of the Sanhedrin that he believes in Jesus. So, he defends Jesus without taking the risk of saying that he believes in Jesus, and that's what reminds us of ourselves. He makes us think of all the times when God has given us a perfect opportunity to speak up and tell people what we believe about Jesus, but we let the moment pass by being vague or by saying nothing at all. We need to learn to step out of the shadows and into the light by speaking up when we have the chance, by telling people that we believe in Jesus, and by encouraging them to believe in Jesus as well. Let's stop missing the precious opportunities God gives us every day.

5. We said in the message that our reward in heaven will not be based on our business success, our success in school or our success on the team. What will our reward in heaven be based on, and what should that make us want to do?

Answer:

Let them discuss this. (Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.) There are many reasons that we may receive rewards. If our business is successful we'll be rewarded with enough salary to make us comfortable if not wealthy. If we do well in school we'll get to graduate and perhaps receive other honors. If we play well on the team we may be rewarded with a championship or a trophy. None of these things are eternal. Our eternal, heavenly reward will be based on those things that we did to build Christ's church. There are two kinds of building materials – flammable and inflammable. The flammable materials we may use in building are cheap and easy to get – things like wood, hay and stubble. The inflammable materials we could use are much more expensive and harder to find – things like gold, silver and precious stones. Jesus is keeping track of all those times when we took the initiative to tell other people about Him, or to disciple other people. Jesus pays attention to what we do to build His church here on earth because He wants to reward us for our work on His behalf. Obviously, we could spend all our time here on our business pursuits or schoolwork or on practicing for our favorite sport and that will provide us with a temporary reward here on earth, but if we want an eternal reward in heaven, we have to learn to give some of our time and effort to the things that God wants us to do before it's too late.

WORK

This week has been mostly about standing up and speaking out. Most of our Life Groups still have the same members they had when they first were formed years ago. It's time to stretch beyond that and begin sharing the Good News with people who need to hear it. Let's get busy with this so that we can receive the reward that Jesus wants to give us when we see Him.

Those of us who lead should remember that there is no better way to motivate others to share the gospel than to set an example for them. Speak to others about Jesus when you have the opportunity and set an example of lifestyle evangelism for the members of your group. They will be much more likely to follow your example than they will be to simply do what you tell them to do. Ask the group to discuss this and then ask them to think through the list of people you have been praying for each week. Discuss how we can be more aggressively involved in sharing the good news with these folks for whom God has burdened us. We will pray for these people tonight and each night we're together until they come to Life Group, or come to Christ through some other means. Have each couple or individual share the name of one couple/person to pray for and then ask one of the other people in the group to pray for them.

Close your time together in prayer.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Singapore Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Core, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Singapore Facilities

- CCF Singapore Center
- Equipments

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends