

Bible Study Notes – Week commencing Sunday 15th March

The Significance of Water in the Bible

If your Bible study forms part of a group where you would normally be served tea and coffee, think about whether having only drinking water on this occasion to tie in with the theme for the session.

Starter Activity (answers have been emailed to small group leaders)

1. How many people worldwide do not have access to adequate sanitation?

a) 1.2 billion b) 2.5 billion c) 3.1 billion

2. How many people worldwide are currently living without sustainable access to clean water (within 1km distance)?

a) 500 million b) 900 million c) 1.5 billion

3. How many children (under the age of 5) die each day as a result of diarrhoeal disease?

a) 1,000 b) 2,000 c) 5,000

4. How far, on average, do women in sub-Saharan Africa walk to collect water each day?

a) 2km b) 6km c) 9km

5. When is the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to halve the number of people without access to adequate sanitation facilities due to be achieved in sub-Saharan Africa?

a) 2020 b) 2074 c) 2108

6. When a US\$1 is invested into improving access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities, how much do you think is gained?

a) \$2 b) \$5 c) \$8

1. Read Isaiah 55: 1-2 & 10-11

What is water compared with here?

What does this comparison remind us about water and also about the word of God?

In the Old Testament the symbol of water is used to describe both God, 'the fountain of living waters' (Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13) and the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 32:15; 44:3; Ezekiel 39:29; Joel 2:28-9)

2. Read John 4 1-26. Look at John 4:14, what do you think John means in this metaphor about water?

3. When Jesus refers to 'living water' in verse 10, what do you understand by this?

4. Read John 7:37-39, which expands on 4:14.

Again Jesus talks about streams of living water. Do you think this water is just so those who believe in him can be refreshed and have a better quality of life?

5. What link, if any, can you see between living water and what Jesus goes on to say in John 4:23-24? 'A time is coming when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.'

6. Discussion point: Often people describe times in their lives when they feel distanced from God and do not feel his presence as 'desert times'.

Have you had a desert time? How did it feel?

If it has ended, how did it end?

Brainstorm the things that you think water is symbolic of in the Bible.

Please turn over...