

BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN

WITH PURPOSE

Week Two: April 20th-24th

The devotional on the pages that follow can be used by individuals, families, and small group Bible studies. If you're doing this devotional alone, we encourage you to invite friends and family to join you—beautiful things happen when we invite others to grow with us in our relationships with Jesus!

This devotional has three sections:

1) **Reading:**

- **Key text:** Read this text at least two times. Bonus points if you read it out loud! Look for the main idea and look for a phrase that jumps out at you.
- **Digging deeper:** Use this reading to go deeper into themes from the key text. Use a highlighter to mark ideas that stand out or themes you notice repeating.

2) **Reflection:** Use these reflection questions to connect your reading directly to your life. Reflect on how God is speaking to you and equipping you through His Word!

3) **Prayer:** This guided prayer is broken up into four sections, using the acronym ACTS:

- **Adoration**—Tell God something that you love about Him.
- **Confession**—Confess your feelings, worries, troubles, and sin to God.
- **Thanksgiving**—Tell God something that you're thankful for.
- **Supplication**—Talk to God about something that you're needing or wanting.

Throughout your prayers, feel free to return to the specific words and phrases you read in previous sections. One of the many ways we can use God's Word is by turning into prayer!

Key Texts:

As you read, pay attention to the context and the setting where the stories take place. Why do you think Jesus chooses *living water* to describe Himself?

John 4: 3-14

Jesus left Judea and went again to Galilee. 4 He had to travel through Samaria; 5 so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, 8 because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. 9 "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water." 11 "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'?" 12 You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock." 13 Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

John 7:37-39

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." 39 He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Looking at the passages above, what key phrase stands out to you? Put a box around it!

Digging Deeper:

Below are other places in the Bible where the metaphor of *water* is used to describe relationship between God and His people. Highlight the ideas and phrases that stand out:

Psalm 63:1

God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you.
I thirst for you;
My body faints for you
in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your
strength and your glory.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

The person who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence indeed is the Lord, is blessed.
He will be like a tree planted by water:
it sends its roots out toward a stream,
it doesn't fear when heat comes,
and its foliage remains green.
It will not worry in a year of drought or cease
producing fruit.

Psalm 1:2-3

Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction,
and he meditates on it day and night.
He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams
that bears its fruit in its season
and whose leaf does not wither:
Whatever he does prospers.

Jeremiah 2:13

For my people have committed a double evil:
They have abandoned me,
the fountain of living water,
and dug cisterns for themselves—
cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.

Psalm 42:1

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so I long for you, God.
I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I come and appear before God?

The Festival of Shelters:

The passage about living water in John 7 tell us Jesus stood up “on the last and most important day of the festival.” This was the Festival of Shelters; during this celebration, the people **remembered and celebrated** how God brought them through the desert, protecting them and providing for them. They also **celebrated and asked** for his provision of rain for the coming year. This was a joyous celebration—the people celebrated all night long! The Talmud (the Jewish text on law and theology), says that this was such a joyful experience, that it was like you've never experienced joy at all until you've seen this moment!

One of the ways the Jewish people celebrated was a ceremony where the priest gathered water in a pitcher and poured it out on the altar. Many scholars say this is the ceremony that was taking place when Jesus stands up and says, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!”

How does the context above help you imagine and understand Jesus's promise of living water?

Reflection:

What kinds of things make you feel physically thirsty? When do you feel most physically thirsty? How does *physical* thirst help you understand *spiritual* thirst?

What does it look like for you to experience Living Water from Jesus? What are some of the ways you can drink the Living Water he promises you?

Why do you think God chooses to use water as a metaphor for his relationship with his people throughout the Bible?

Water is both necessary and refreshing. How is a relationship with Jesus necessary for you? How is it refreshing for you?

Prayer:

Adoration: Praise God by telling Him who He is—our Living Water (hint: use some of the specific words and phrases from the verses you read. For example: “God, YOU ARE my Living Water. You are the thing I am thirsty for, even when I’m not aware of it).”

Confession: Confess the ways you forget Jesus is your Living Water and the different ways you try to satisfy your thirst (hint: this is what the Jeremiah calls “abandoning the fountain of living water” and “digging cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.”)

Thanksgiving: Thank God for providing you with Living Water through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Thank Him for taking care of you thus far and giving you his promise to continue to take care of you.

Supplication: Where do you feel thirsty in your life? Where do you need to see and experience Jesus’ Living Water? Ask Jesus to provide for you and satisfy you. Who else in your life might need prayers for Living Water? Pray for them too!

Additional resources: The Bible Project Video: [Water of Life](#)