

**“Thirsty” Bible study**  
**John 7:37-38**

Basic focus of the study: We are thirsty. Christ offers to quench that thirst and this Bible study will help them toward that end.

Time: about 15-20 minutes. It goes after “heart” issues, so you must lead it this way. In other words, you can’t ask bland questions and get there. You need to be passionate about it! At the end: summarize the Bible study as a place they can meet Christ and journey with friends.

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**EXPLORE**

Have someone read John 7:37-38.

“On the last day of the Feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”’

**Q Let’s start at the end of the passage. Jesus promises that we can have “living water flowing from our heart.” What do you think this means? What would it be like to have “rivers of living water” flowing out of your heart? Or put another way, what would it be like to have “living water” for your soul.**

**Q As you look at the text, What does Jesus say are the prerequisites for having these “living waters”?** (you must be thirsty and you must come to Him to drink – vs. 37)

Note that in verse 38 “come to me and drink” is paralleled with “believes.” So, Jesus is saying that thirsty people, who believe in him, find overflowing hearts.

“Thirsty,” “drink” and “water” are figures of speech Jesus uses to make his point.

**Q What does it mean to “come to Jesus and drink?”** *Believe in Him*  
(Follow up question: *What is Biblical belief? It involves faith/trust in Christ, not mere intellectual acknowledgement. Biblical belief leads to action and turning away from other things that we think will quench our thirst*)

**Q So, I know it’s early in the first group, but let’s break the mold of “Hi, I’m Jason from Texas” and talk about something more significant. Let’s even try to be honest. What do you thirst for? At a core level, what do you long for? What do all of us long for?**

Let them throw out some ideas. If you have time, follow up with some questions. For example, if Joe says he’s thirsty for recognition ask him “Why is that, Joe?”

(Here is a partial list of what people might say: we thirst for acceptance, contentment, affection, security, recognition, approval, purpose, love, to be liked)

Everyone of us is thirsty, but the issue is how do we try to quench our thirst. Jesus says the only way to quench our thirst, to find true satisfaction, is to come to Him. The problem is we often turn to many other things instead...

**Read Jeremiah 2:13 (leader could read this in case you don't have time for people to look for the verse)**

“for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” Jer. 2:13

**Q Instead of turning to God, we turn to other things that can never satisfy. What are some of the things we use to satisfy our thirst instead of Jesus?**

*sex, drugs, parties, academic success, relationships, busyness, entertainment, material things, etc.*

**Q What would it be like to actually have some of these thirsts satiated by Jesus? Talk for a minute about how your life might be different?**

**GOING DEEPER**

The shocking thing about these two verses is not the problem of being thirsty people. If we take a second to think about it, we will realize that we are VERY thirsty people. We want success – and we get it, sort of. We're in college now. But the first test is ahead of us . . . will you

cut it? Will I? We are THIRSTY for recognition – to know we have it. And we're not always sure that we have that recognition. We have friends, but, well, will these new college acquaintances work out? Will I fit in or get left out? We are THIRSTY for acceptance – for someone to welcome us. Some do but we're not sure they always will. I know I can keep the ship afloat for a while – partying, having fun, making good grades. But I'm not sure that's all I want in life. We are THIRSTY for purpose – to know our lives really are significant, even if they are flawed. I know I can make a good GPA but I'm not sure I know where I'm going. We are THIRSTY people. But the shocking thing about these two verses is the solution. If we come thirsty, and believe in Him, HE satisfies our thirst. Not just a meager solution but RIVERS of LIVING WATER. The solution to being thirsty is a Person, Christ.

**A helpful word picture to share:**

**Living Water vs. Dead Sea**

- Living Water is another term for freshwater - what we drink, wash our dishes with, feed our plants and animals, etc.
- Contrast this with the Dead Sea in the Middle East, which is the opposite of living water. It has one of the highest salt contents of any body of water. Salt Water looks like fresh, living water but if you drink it, it will kill you. This picture reminds us that not only do the things we turn to not satisfy our thirst, but eventually they could destroy us.
- Also, the Dead Sea has no outlet to the ocean, which means it is stagnant and nothing can live in it. In the same way, if we only give attention to ourselves and our own relationship with God and don't reach out to others, our faith will grow stagnant.

## **Application and Vision for the Group**

- These two passages are a great introduction to our life group. During your time at college you are going to be thirsty in a lot of ways. And there are going to be all kinds of things crying out, “try me! I will satisfy you” (academic achievement, extracurricular activities, relationships, drinking, etc.)
- We want this to be a community where we seek to quench our thirst with Jesus. We want this Life Group to be a place where you can meet Christ, not just learn about Him.
- We want to be real and vulnerable and admit we are thirsty - we don't have it all together and we are still in process. All are welcome here....from the most skeptical to the strongest believer. Come and see who Jesus is.
- We want to look to Jesus to fill our thirst by studying the Bible and knowing Him better.
- We want to help each other in this process by sharing life together - sharing our joys and struggles, praying for and encouraging one another, eating and playing together.
- We want to reach out to others together - to not be a dead and stagnant group that has no outflow but one that seeks to point others to Jesus as the source of true satisfaction for their thirst.
- We want this study to be a place that will challenge us to live for a higher purpose – God and his mission. Fixating on someone bigger than yourself will expand you. We don't want to be a dead and stagnant group that has not outflow but one that cares about others around us...seeking to point them to the true source of life – Jesus.
- We want this to be a place where you can come thirsty and meet Jesus, who quenches your thirst. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, this group is for you. We believe that all of us are thirsty but that Jesus can satisfy our thirst. We want to journey together to know him more.

Know that you are welcome here. Let's all journey together to get to know Christ -- the most desirable person in the universe!

Pray and close the Time – you pray.

Administrative details: Upcoming events (announce and give vision for things), logistics for the group, email list, creating a group me for the group, eating together, etc. Plug Fall Retreat.