

Thanksgiving Bible Studies – Oct 5-26, 20265.

Week 1 – Oct 5- 12

PREREADING:

It would be helpful if people could read the following pages in advance (or afterwards if that isn't possible). These are the video notes that are prepared by the bibleproject. Every video is based on a conversation. Each conversation is based on scholarly research. That research is put together in notes – just like these – that are really helpful !

Pages 1 – 11. (up to John's Gospel and the water of life)

https://d1bsmz3sdiplr.cloudfront.net/media/Study%20Notes/Water%20of%20Life_Video%20Notes.pdf

As part of your small group meeting.

ICEBREAKER: check in, how are we after the holidays ? What is one thing we are thankful for ?

STUDY: 15-20,min.

Watch the video - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/water-of-life/>

Read Gen 2:4-14

and

Read Gen 29:1-13

Some questions

- 1) In what ways are human beings dependent on 'the water of life'
- 2) How did they lose access to it
- 3) What similarities do you see between the two readings ?
- 4) This water that flows out into the nations. What is the open -ended question here, i.e who / how will the nations still have access to the eden-garden and the life giving water?

APPLICATION & PRAYER: Time to think about how we personally apply this and pray for each other (15min + 15 min). Don't forget our structure, breaking into small groups of 2 or 3 for personal application and prayer.

i.e What questions does this raise for you?

How do you see your part in the garden or Jacobs well story ?

Is God asking you to consider his love for the nations – the nations that will become the enemies of God's people in the O.T. and take them off into exile ? What does that look like today ?

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Week 2 – Oct 9 – 16

PREREADING: Read this gospel coalition article

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/feast-of-tabernacles/>

ICEBREAKER – 10-15min. What was one thing from last week that we took away ? How has God answered our prayers from last week ?

STUDY:

Watch the video again <https://bibleproject.com/videos/water-of-life/>

Did you notice anything different?

Last week we looked at the story of the Garden and that of Jacob and Leah.

In exodus, God gives the sabbath, and seven ‘sabbath cycles’ throughout the year, being ‘feasts’. Which are essentially special sabbaths.

The last feast is that of the Tabernacles / Booths. In the Hebrew, it’s called the feast of sukkoth.

Read John chapter 4:1-15 the woman at the well

What do you notice about this account, in light of our two readings last week?

What are the similarities ? What is Jesus declaring about himself in comparison to Jacob’s well, and the river of life from Eden ?

Remember our small group includes time for personal reflection and prayer.

Personal application and prayer: (15-30min)

In this story, do you identify with the woman at the well ? Jesu the one through whom God’s life flows ? The disciples who are off being busy ?

How do we apply this ? Do we personally come to Jesus seeking ‘the water of life ?’ what does it mean for us to drink this water daily ?

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Week 3 – Oct 17-24;

PREREADING: It would be helpful if people could read the following pages in advance (or afterwards if that isn't possible). Extra reading – from the video notes – link below the video L– Pages 11-22. (The water of life in John's Gospel)

https://d1bsmz3sdiplr.cloudfront.net/media/Study%20Notes/Water%20of%20Life_Video%20Notes.pdf

ICEBREAKER: How have we seen God at work in the past week ? Has God answered any prayers specifically ?

STUDY

Watch the video one last time.

Watch the video - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/water-of-life/>

Read Lev 23:33-43 “festival of Booths”

And

Read: John 7:37-39.

Questions:

What is Jesus declaring when he says that HE is the living water (the water flowing out of Eden)

How ‘symbolic’ is the water flow from Jesus side when he is crucified ? What does this represent ?

Thinking about Baptism, as going into the ‘chaos waters’ of death, and rising to life, how does this picture of living water, rivers of living water flowing from Jesus death, impact our thinking around baptism and where our source of life comes from ?

Personal Application and Prayer

How do you apply this? How do you identify with Jesus in his death ? How do you identify with Jesus in his being raised again ?

The final image of the bible is renewed creation with ‘rivers of living water’ flowing out to the nations – the original Eden imagery restored ... what does this mean for you ?