



23 JAN 2022 | PS BEN KC LEE | THE RIVER OF GOD | JOHN 7:37-39

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on what it means to be spiritually thirsty for God
2. Be reminded of the importance of trusting and depending on Him for the indwelling and the outflowing of His presence in our lives and to those around us.

SERMON SUMMARY

Jesus is the source of living water. As we come to Jesus and trust in Him, He quenches our spiritual thirst and we are filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. As we are filled, rivers of life will flow out of our hearts enabling us to be God's channel of life to those around of us and for the healing of the nations.

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Ben spoke about spiritual thirst and shared how our quest for satisfaction is endless. We have a body, soul and spirit and we will have physical, emotional and spiritual needs. We desire for love, joy and peace. Pastor Ben also shared about how water is a symbol of life. Through the Scriptures, we see how this imagery is a promise of the fullness of the Holy Spirit for our lives, and how it overflows from our hearts to others.

Living water represents experiencing the presence of the risen Christ through the Holy Spirit. Spiritual thirst is a requirement for us to receive this living water.

1. *Jesus is the source of Living Water (John 7:37, 39).*
 - We will be filled as we thirst for Him ([Psalm 42:1-2 NCV](#), [Jeremiah 2:13 NCV](#), [Psalm 63:1 NCV](#)). Let us ponder on what we are pursuing – does it make us thirst even more? Or does it satisfy?
2. *Living water quenches spiritual thirst (John 7:37-38a) (John 6:35 NCV).*
 - Christ promises to give this living water to all who trust Him. We are encouraged to come to Christ and to drink in Him by faith.
 - Drinking from Christ is:
 - a) to trust Him as the only way to God
 - b) depending on Him as the Giver of life and the One who satisfies our hearts

“The thirst-quenching living water of the Holy Spirit we receive in this life is a foretaste of the full satisfaction we will find and drink deeply of in the life to come.” – Saint Augustine

- We are encouraged to drink of Christ and to keep drinking. It is an ongoing process of turning to Him and to experience the continual flow. It is to be full of God and have an insatiable thirst; a



crying out for more for the revelation of what we already have to be made living and alive. As we are being filled, He also desires for us to give of ourselves to Him.

3. *Living waters flow from the heart (John 7:38) and outflows to revive those around us.*
 - Pastor Ben shared about the process - Christ quenches us through salvation – Indwelling (John 4:4-15). We then receive infilling of the Holy Spirit and it overflows to those around us (John 7:37-39). Has the rivers of living water from Heaven been poured into our lives?
 - The order of infilling and outflowing may not be linear at times. The overflow of our hearts for others is also an essential part of living in the fullness of the Spirit.
 - When the Holy Spirit flows out of our hearts, it is displayed through godly character flowing out from our lives (the fruit of the Spirit) and being a life-giving channel to others. As we live by the Spirit, it is important for us to keep in step with Him (Galatians 5:25) and to surrender ourselves to Him in the everyday moments of our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What does spiritual thirst look like for you?** [10 mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to define what spiritual thirst means for them. Leaders can ask members to share about how others display a life that is thirsty for God. Members can also ponder on the following as they share – Where does spiritual thirst come from? How is it displayed in our lives? What quenches our spiritual thirst? How can we quench it? How does it influence others? Leaders can also invite members to share if they are experiencing struggles in this aspect of thirsting after God as well; it may be an area the member needs breakthrough and prayer support in.

For cell meetings with people yet to experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Ben has shared this video (18-min message from Joel 2:28-32) to help prepare to pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bm-eLYmd3VM> (Timing from 34:23 to 52:16)

Transition

As we long for Jesus and trust and surrender to His ways, we can be assured that we will be satisfied in Him.

2. **Living waters quenches our spiritual thirst. Share an experience or time where you experienced satisfaction for your soul.**

Leader's Notes



This is a relate and reflect question for members to share about times when they were thirsty for God and how it was quenched. Members can share about various avenues they turn to when seeking God (e.g. listening to sermons, individual times of prayer, going for silent retreats). Leaders can also remind members that this is an ongoing process of hungering and thirsting and being filled, similar to how we get hungry and eat to be filled daily. Members can also share more of the lessons they learnt through their various encounters.

Transition

We can be assured that as we seek after Him, we will be filled and satisfied.

3. As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it flows out of our hearts. What are the avenues where we can be a life-giving channel to others? [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a relate and respond question for members to consider how they can be a source of life to others. It is not giving out of emptiness but a process of constantly relying on God to fill us and renew us as we serve as His channels, and also to be reminded that we seek God not for the outflowing, but we seek God for God and to grow in relationship with Him. The outflowing of the Holy Spirit is something that comes naturally as we allow God to have His way in our lives. Members can share avenues where they are trusting God to be a life-giving channel to, and the cell can break into subgroups to commit the members' situations in prayer.

Closing

Jesus desires that we may have life, and to have it abundantly. He desires for us to thirst after Him and to find true satisfaction for our souls. As we drink from Him and continue to seek Him, we will be His channels and oasis of life to others around us.

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- A strong desire and longing for God to flood our lives and grow our relationship with Him.
- Full surrender to God leading to complete transformation.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God that the Omicron strain seems weaker than the Delta strain.
- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.

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- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Upcoming Classes.** For any enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

- **Water Baptism Class, 19 Feb, 9am-3.30pm, Faith Chapel.** This course is for those who wish to learn more about the significance of water baptism and get water baptised. Register for this class at rlc.sg/baptism-class by Sun, 13 Feb. Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 13 Mar.
- **Joining The Family, 26 Feb, 10:30-12:30pm.** This course is for regular worshippers who wish to be rooted here in RiverLife as a member and take ownership of our vision, mission and values. Sign up online at rlc.sg/jointhefam by Sun, 13 Feb.

2. **Service Ticket Returns.** Due to the capacity constraint, if you have booked tickets but are unable to attend – we ask that you kindly return the tickets (as early as possible) so that more RiverLifers have the opportunity to worship in-person. To return your tickets, go to the EventBrite confirmation email and click “View and Manage” or write in to inform us via “Contact Organiser”.

3. **Bible Reading Plan.** Our BRP takes you through the Bible in 2 years. We are continuing from where we left off in 2021. Even if you have not started with our BRP since last year, you can jump right in with us from 2022.

4. **Pulpit Series – Let the River Flow.** This series is a continuation of our journey beyond 30 as a church and will help us discover our Heavenly Father’s invitation to give ourselves fully to Him and experience rivers of living water flow from our hearts to our communities. The six-part message series kicks off with vision weekends exploring our future through the Scriptural image of the River.

5. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC’s RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

6. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

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