

TITLE AND NUMBER: 123. Living water



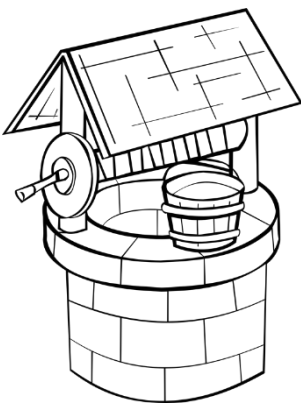
REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 4:9-14

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

LOOKING FURTHER: John 7:37-39, John 14:15-31, Galatians 5:16-26

What does this Bible passage tell us?

This is a wonderful encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman which helps us in our faith. To set the scene, it was hot and they met at Jacob's well at midday. Jesus was thirsty and asked her for a drink. The woman was very surprised as there had been conflict between those who lived in Samaria and those who lived in Judea and Galilee. For hundreds of years, they did not speak to each other or share cups or meals. A religious teacher like Jesus would not normally have spoken to a woman under such circumstances, so Jesus was going against local customs by doing so.



Jesus spoke about the gift of God and living water - the living water that becomes a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Getting over her surprise, the woman wanted to receive this gift of living water.

Another way that we can think about this gift of God is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes to teach us, to cleanse us from the things that we have done wrong, helping us to love God and to love our neighbour. The Spirit wells up inside us like a spring of water, refreshing us daily and stopping us from getting stale; bringing us the fruit of the Spirit such as love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control; making a huge difference to ourselves and to the people we live with. And finally, it brings us to eternal life. What a promise!

Reflections:

- Have you been surprised by what someone has said, which has helped you in your faith?
- Jesus talked about the gift of God and living water, how do you imagine this?
- Which fruit of the Spirit would help you this week? Spend some time in prayer asking for God's help and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

