



Small Group Discussion Questions
“How to Move from Thirsty to Thankful”
Pastor Tyler Scott
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We all, at times, get thirsty. When physical dehydration sets in, we need water to nourish our bodies.

Our souls get thirsty, too. And when spiritual dehydration sets in, we need spiritual water to nourish our souls. Call it renewal, refreshment or refilling...the bottom line is that we need our deepest soul thirst satisfied. But where do we find water for our soul?

In John 7, Jesus reminds us. On a fall day during the Jewish festival focused on Thanksgiving, Jesus stood and shouted a big truth to a big group of thirsty people: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”

You’ve heard it said that “seeing is believing.” In this case, coming and drinking is believing. So come to Jesus. Drink deeply. Have your deepest soul thirst quenched. And as His Spirit fills you up, thankfulness will flow through and out of you...just in time for our very own Thanksgiving week.

(*By the way...you’re going to appreciate the “wholeness” of Scripture as a result of this week’s bible study! :))

Warm it up

1) What is your favorite beverage, and why?

2) Have you ever had a bout with a dehydrated body or soul? If so, share your story.

Talk it Over

Read John 7: 37-43.

1. What part of this passage do you find most meaningful, and why?

This strong statement from Jesus takes place on the “last and greatest day” of the feast. This was the feast (or festival) of Tabernacles, which was one of three festivals God put in place for Hebrew people to remember the myriad ways He provided for and blessed them: 1) the last harvest festival where they gathered grapes (hence, another name for this was the “Festival of Ingathering”), 2) Thanksgiving for God bringing them out of slavery in Egypt and into freedom via the Exodus – thus they lived in “tabernacles” or “booths” made from tree branches, and 3) remembering God as all-sufficient provider of water, including rain for their crops.

To understand the historical significance, origins and context...

Read Exodus 14:10-31.

Read Exodus 17: 1-7.

Read Leviticus 23:39-43.

Then, read Psalm 81:6-16. (*This is an awesome festival song about God’s saving acts – calling Israelites to celebration, remembrance and recommitment!)

Now that you know the Old Testament history and context, read a couple more New Testament texts that highlight the significance of the MOMENT where Jesus spoke, and the MESSAGE that Jesus spoke.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.

Read John 4:10-14.

Work it Through

Read John 7:37-39, one more time.

1. Why might the Israelites – or anyone else trying to live a life based on “religion,” which is obeying so that they’re accepted by God – be thirsty?
 - a. How would you describe spiritual thirst?
 - b. Share a time when you needed either a rescue, a refill, a re-route, or a rock. Be sure to include how God met your need/quenched your spiritual thirst.
 - c. What is so challenging about coming to Jesus to quench our thirst? What gets in the way?

d. Brainstorm as many ways as possible that you can “drink” of Jesus, the living water. (*Take 2 min, and try to get to 10 ways, collectively.)

e. “Coming and drinking” is equated to “believing” here. Why do you think that picture is significant?

f. What does it look like for the Spirit to fill (and flow through) the life of a believer in Christ? Find some Scripture references that speak to this.

g. Read Colossians 2:6-7. What is the link between the Spirit, our roots in Jesus, and thankful hearts? How does that really look in our lives (share at least two examples).

Weekly Devotional and/or Sermon Thought

What was one story from the sermon that helped you discover something new about Jesus or yourself, or helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

Pray it Through

Pray for one another. Share requests...but be sure to focus your prayer time this week on what you are THANKFUL for! :)