

Life-Giving Flow

One of God's primary objectives in establishing the church (local and global) is to create for himself a people who actively and faithfully participate in God's work in the world. As God's chosen people (1 Pet. 2:9) we have been given a unique and important task to tell the story of the One who brought us out of darkness into light. In our passage today, we see a picture of how God desires to use our lives as individuals and as a church to advance of His gospel in the world. In Ezekiel 47 Ezekiel is in the midst of a vision in which he has been shown around a new and magnificent temple out of which there is a life-giving flow. This vision is a picture of how God intends to use his people to impact the world for we are now the temple of God in which His Spirit dwells (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16).

Opening Question: What were your first thoughts when you realized that the passage for the Sunday message text was from the book of Ezekiel? Be honest!

Read Ezekiel 47:1-12

1. What is the vision that Ezekiel sees? What are some of the truths that are revealed through this vision?
2. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" What implications come to mind when you think about your body being God's dwelling place?
3. Jesus said in John 7:38, "*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'*" Think about a person who has modeled this for you. What did you experience in his or her life that could be described as a "river of living water"?
4. If you believe that you are the temple of God, because His presence lives in you, then how is that life-giving, transformational water flowing out from under the threshold of your life? How is that living water flowing from inside your home into your neighborhood? How is it flowing from within our church community into our world?

5. Former missionary to India, Lesslie Newbigin, challenged Christians to *“live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the gospel is the answer.”* What would it take for people to look at your life and be prompted to ask questions that can only be answered by speaking the gospel?

6. As Christians we have often been reminded of the need to “preach the gospel to ourselves every day.” In light of this study, what would be the significance of reminding yourself every day that through Christ, God has brought you out of darkness, into his marvelous light? That you were once dead, but now you have been made alive?

7. How will you live differently this week in your own neighborhood as a result of studying this passage?

A Note about this study guide: I am grateful to our guest preacher, Mark Revell, for providing most of the questions for today’s study guide. Mark serves as the EFCA ReachGlobal City Team leader in Budapest, Hungary. Faith supports Mark and his wife Jodi.