

# Series: Light of the World

## Session Title: Jesus' Living Water for Us (John 7:37-39)

Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

### Materials Needed:

- ☐ Blackboard/chart/overhead
- ☐ Chalk or marker
- ☐ One or more decks of cards enough for one card per student
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Scrap paper
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Chart paper
- ☐ Markers for the students
- ☐ Tape

### Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Define what Jesus means by "rivers of living water flow out from within" (NLT) as living the kind of life God had intended originally.
- Define three personal objectives in achieving "living water flowing from within".

### Pastoral Objectives:

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### Lead In:

Have the students turn to the person next to them to share what the perfect life would look like. When they are finished, ask for people to volunteer their partner's answers. They must get their partner's permission first. Have someone keep track of the answers on a

blackboard/chart/overhead. Now have the students look over the answers and decide on three to five characteristics that the answers have in common.

You could transition by saying something like:

*Jesus made a promise. John 7:37-39 reads, “On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “If you are thirsty, come to me! If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within.” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)”.*

*When Paul wrote letters to the earliest churches, he fleshed out what the living water flowing out from within would look like. That’s what we are going to look at next.*

## Life with the Spirit:

Give every student a playing card from a deck and have them arrange themselves in groups according to suits. There should be four groups, one per suit. Tell the groups that you are going to assign a passage to them and that they should look up that passage and read it together. Tell them that they must try to answer this question: according to Paul in your passage, what does life with the Spirit look like? Also tell them that they must be prepared to answer this question without the help of their group. Set a strict time limit of five minutes. Now, make sure that every group has pens and paper and assign the following passages to them:

1. Diamonds will look up Galatians 5:16-26
2. Clubs will look up Colossians 3:1-17
3. Hearts will look up Ephesians 4:25-5:7
4. Spades will look up 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

At the end of the five minutes, have everyone stop their discussions. Have the students form new groups according to the value of their card. All of the aces together, all of the twos together, and so on. Give every group a piece of chart paper and a marker. Have the students summarize their passage and their answer for their new group. They should list common elements of life in the Spirit on their piece of chart paper. Now they have a time limit of ten minutes.

As they are working, distribute tape to each group and instruct them to put their paper up on the wall when they are done. Remind them of the time limit.

At the end of this task, each group should have a piece of paper taped up on the wall that summarizes what life with the Spirit looks like according to the passages they looked up.

Now ask the students to travel around the room and scan all of the papers in search of anything that they disagree with. You should also float around to monitor the answers of the students. When this is done, give the students a chance to raise questions and concerns. Help them to clarify and correct any confusions or errors. At the end of this time, every paper should have only reasonable answers to the question.

## Making it Personal:

You could say something like:

*There are certain expectations we should have when the Holy Spirit is working in us. The more we come to be with and learn from Jesus, the more the Holy Spirit works to transform us. These characteristics describe the life that God originally intended: one where we're not out to hurt each other; one that is filled with passion, purpose and joy; one that seeks to carry out another person's best interest rather than focusing on our own; one that trusts and lives freely within God's good and perfect will. As the Holy Spirit transforms us, these "rivers of living water", this flow of how God intended life to be, will flow out of us. The more the Holy Spirit works in us, the more natural it becomes. It's still something to work at with the help of the Holy Spirit. But the more he works, the more it flows out of us.*

For this final task, make sure that every student has a pen and some paper. Have them think about the descriptions which they and their peers have written around the room and have them choose one to three areas in which they would like to experience growth. Allow them to write them down. Have the students personalize that description so that it is an action. For example, if Alex chooses "lessen anger", he could write down "I will not yell at my little brother in anger this week."

Depending on your group, you could have them share this with a partner or you could have them fold the paper up and place it in their wallet or purse as a reminder of their intention.

Bring the lesson to a close.

Note to leader: For students who would like to go into depth, take a look at John Ortberg's series called "Flow" (available at [www.willowmessages.com](http://www.willowmessages.com) under "Believers Services").