



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Water for life



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of what the Bible says about water and physical and spiritual cleanliness.

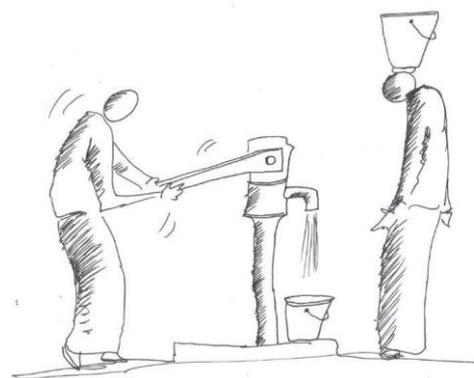


Cleansing, blessing and spiritual need

The Bible has over 300 references to water and another 80 on rain.

Which is the first verse that comes to your mind when you think about water?

The Bible looks at water in many different ways, using it as a symbol of destruction (Genesis 6-9), cleansing (Exodus 30:18), blessing (Jeremiah 17:8) and spiritual need (Psalm 42).



Read **Deuteronomy 28:12** and **Psalms 65:9**.



Key points

- The Bible refers to water for physical cleansing and as symbolic for our spiritual cleansing.
- Water is also used as a symbol of destruction and of blessing – for example in the flood in Genesis.
- The Bible also refers to the water of life that meets our spiritual needs.



Questions for discussion

- What is the Bible saying here about our need for water?
- What does it say about God's provision for our spiritual needs?
- In the early chapters of Leviticus we learn of many rituals that were used to bring cleansing (Leviticus 16:4, 24 and Leviticus 17:15).
- Read Psalm 24:3-4. Reflect on our need for spiritual cleansing. Jesus' sacrifice provides us with the means for spiritual cleansing.
- Are we careful to keep our spiritual bodies clean?
- Read Isaiah 41:17 and reflect on God's promises to us.
- What can we do in our community to ensure that the poor and needy can receive God's gift of water?

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

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Reflection

Pray and consider God's provision of water and its symbolic meaning.



Notes

This Bible study was first published in Tearfund (2005) A PILLARS Guide – *Encouraging good hygiene and sanitation*

http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/pillars/encouraging_good_hygiene_and_sanitation/

Related tools

- B - Water for blessing (Bible study) [*B: Water, sanitation & hygiene-3*]
- C2 - Protecting a spring [*C2: Water, sanitation & hygiene-2*]
- C2 – Rainwater harvesting [*C2: Water, sanitation & hygiene-1*]
- C2 – Constructing a hand-dug well [*C2: Water, sanitation & hygiene-3*]
- C2 – Community involvement in siting and constructing boreholes [*C2: Water, sanitation & hygiene-5*]