

The Water
Text: Psalm 42
February 13-14, 2010



Start It

(10 minutes)

Leader:

As people begin arriving use the following to begin to guide the conversation:

1. When you are thirsty with what do you generally use to quench your thirst?
2. When you are “spiritually thirsty” what have you found works to quench this thirst?
3. Were you aware this last week of some profound “need” (for sleep, a hug, a sense of being needed, money)? How did you respond? Was the need met?



Share It

(10 minutes)

1. Begin your time in worship. 2 weeks ago we talked about different individuals in the group coming prepared with a Psalm, or a song. Take some time now to share and reflect on what people brought.
2. Describe a time when you really felt “clean.” How did you feel emotionally, physically, spiritually? Is this a feeling you have on a regular basis? Why or why not?
3. What stood out in the sermon about baptism?
 - a. Was there a new thought?
 - b. Was there something that you found challenging?



Video

(10 minutes)

1. What does it mean for our souls to thirst for God?
2. Can you relate to what Ron said about questioning if God is really with us in our times of hardship and doubt? Can you give an example?
3. What do you think Ron meant by “reflecting on the broader things?” What prevents you from doing this type of reflecting?



Study It

(30 minutes)

Turn to Psalm 42-43 (Some believe these actually form one Psalm)

1. What would you say is the mood of the Psalmist? Can you describe some circumstances in your own life when you might have cried out like this?
2. What solution does the psalmist offer?
3. In 42:3 and 42:10 the enemies ask the same question of the psalmist, that the psalmist asks himself in 42:9. Is there a difference in how these questions are put? What might this teach us about faith and doubt?
4. In verse 9, the author cries out to God “why have you forgotten me?” Can you relate to this feeling? What are some ideas of why, at times, we feel this way? Have you experienced a time when God seemed far away? Why do you think we go through these times? How might these Psalms help during such times?
5. In dealing with depression this man freely cried, talked to himself, reminded himself of God’s nature and prayed honestly. How does this relate to what Ron talked about?
6. Jim said baptism was for broken people. In what ways does this Psalm relate to baptism?

John 2:1-11

1. Why do we use water in baptism?
2. Why do we only need to be baptized once?
3. Do you “feel clean” today? Why or why not, and what dictates your feelings in this area?
4. Jim said “Jesus took the symbols of their power to alienate people and used them to turn their ritual water into wine.” What does this teach us about baptism, God, how we should relate to others?

Read Matthew 3

1. What more do you learn about baptism?
2. Why did the Pharisees and Sadducees not believe they needed to be baptized? Who are people today who might not believe they need to be baptized?
3. Why did Jesus need to be baptized?



Live It

(20 minutes)

1. Briefly—from what tradition are you out of when it comes to the sacrament of baptism: dunking, sprinkling, adult, infant? In what ways does this tradition affect your present understanding of baptism?
2. Given what Jim talked about in the sermon, how would you counsel someone
 - a. Who is a new Christian, but baptized as a child, about being baptized or not?
 - b. Who is a new Christian who has never been baptized?
 - c. A believing parent with a new born child?

How are answers instructed by the tradition you came out of?



Pray It

(10 minutes)

Conclude with prayer

1. Share any answers to prayers these last few weeks.
2. Does anyone have any specific requests?
3. Have everyone give the name of someone they are praying for to come to know Jesus. Close with a time of prayer for these individuals and any needs in your group.