



Water for blessing



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of what the Bible says about water as a symbol of power, cleansing and blessing.



A gift from God

Read: Exodus 30:18-21. In the Bible, water is used as a symbol to show several different aspects of God's power. It can be used as a symbol of cleansing, as in the ceremonial washings of the Old Testament sacrificial system.

It can be used as a symbol of destruction, as with flooding (Genesis 6-9:17). But the most common symbol of water is as a symbol of blessing.

Read Isaiah 35:1-7. One of the many passages in the Bible which uses water to symbolise blessing is Isaiah 35. Much of the book of Isaiah concerns Isaiah's prophecies of God's judgement on the sins of the people. But this chapter looks ahead to God's glorious promises to those who trust him.

Read Isaiah 35:8-10. The highway is God's path for us – the path which leads to eternal life. Remember that Isaiah wrote this prophecy hundreds of years before the coming of Christ.



Key points

- Water is a symbol of power, destruction and cleansing, but most often the Bible uses water as a symbol of blessing.



Questions for discussion

- Why did the desert suddenly burst for joy?
- What were the signs of this joy – both in the desert, and in the lives of those who believe?
- What signs are there in your life of the joy of trusting in God?

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



Reflection

Pray that as the desert brought forth streams and springs of water because of God's presence, we also will be filled with the joy of believing and trusting in God.



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 life (Bible study) [*B: Water, sanitation & hygiene-4*]
- 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*]

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