

WHITFIELD PARISH
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Pentecost Sunday 11 May 2008

"If anyone is thirsty...."

John 7.37 – 52

1. What does thirst mean to you? Recount the time you were most thirsty. How did you feel? How was your thirst quenched?

Read John 7 v.37-52

The next few questions concentrate on v.37-41.

The Feast of the Tabernacles was, at this point in Israel's history, a cross between a harvest festival celebration and anticipation of the coming of the Messiah who would usher in a 'golden age' for Israel and the world.

The Feast included a ceremony that involved processing behind the High Priest who carried a large jug of water, which was poured out at the altar of the Temple. This brought to mind the Old Testament references to rivers or waters of salvation associated with the coming of the Messiah.

2. In this context, what was the deep significance of Jesus' words in v.37? How does it relate to Isaiah 55 v.1?
3. What kind of thirst did Jesus have in mind?

4. We considered physical thirst in question 1, now recount a time when you were most spiritually thirsty. How did you feel? How was your thirst quenched?
5. According to v.38, how do we go to Jesus to have our thirst quenched?
6. According to v.39, who is the "living water"?
7. Make a list of the blessings contained in the gift of the Holy Spirit. This should take some time and should be quite long! (*Someone might need a pen.*)
8. What does v.39 have to do with the cross? How are the cross of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit related?
9. Why did people come to the conclusions recorded in v.40-41a?
10. In v.38, Jesus says "*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said....*"

What is the rôle of Scripture in receiving the Spirit?

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A suggestion for your prayer time: Spiritual thirst is not confined to the time before you were a Christian. Spend some time waiting on the Holy Spirit. Tell Him your spiritual needs and welcome Him afresh into your life.