

Let's Get Wet In 2018

Rev. Clyde Hamer | Ezekiel 47:3-5
February 18, 2018 | Winter Cycle: Week 6 of 10

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Think back to a time during your childhood when, while playing or exploring your surroundings, you discovered something. What was your response? Timid, scared, inquisitive, excited?

Ups and Downs

How has your week been? Have you been leaning on the Lord for guidance throughout the week?

Praying for each other

Pray for the group, particularly for being immersed in and submitting to the Lord's call on our lives.

Sharing Christ

Last week we discussed that to *catch* people for Christ requires going deeper with God, or growing in our faith and willingness to recognize and follow his lead. How were you able to follow Christ into deeper waters this week in sharing him with others?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

The war is won on our knees. Pray to the Lord for obedience and faith for the small daily decisions in our lives.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

Earnestly following the Lord's leading in our lives results in profound peace, closeness with him, and increased willingness on our part to go where he directs.

Read Ezekiel 47:3-5

Ezekiel's vision in these verses describes being "led-through" the waters four times. This "leading" describes all the different levels of being immersed in our faith, obedience, and our willingness to allow God to lead our lives.

Ezekiel 47:3 — Ankle-deep

Q. What comes to your mind when you think of ankle-deep waters? Why is this metaphor effective?

Q. What are the greatest threats to your development as a Christian, keeping you at an ankle-deep level?

Ezekiel 47:4 — Knee-deep

Q. What does this next level of depth represent as related to a Christian's spiritual development?

Q. Think very specifically about something you have given over to God in the recent past. Was there a connection between your ability to allow God to be in control of that area of your life and the way he has been reshaping you? Please explain.

Ezekiel 47:4 — Waist-deep

Q. What comes to your mind when you think of being immersed in waist-deep waters?

Q. Assuming your faith gives you the freedom to trust the Lord in your circumstances and change you on the inside, what kind of reservations do you still experience in surrendering completely?

Ezekiel 47:5 — Deep waters

Q. Consider the progressive nature of the movement and depth of the river. Apply this in several ways:

- Your growth as a Christian, both in obedience to Jesus and a transformed inner life
- Your dependence on the Lord to use the gifts he has given you for the good of the larger Christian body
- Your connection to and willingness to trust other believers to go deeper, together

Q. What steps of faith can you take *in the Lord* and *with others*, to be immersed in Christ's river of life?

Impact Questions

Q. If you are honest with yourself, what kind of water do you most often tread through?

Q. What does it mean to follow the Lord *earnestly*?

Q. How do you feel when people talk about giving up control? Is there a specific area in your life for which you need to let Christ take control?

Having control is an illusion! Ephesians 6:10-12 states that we are in a constant war. We have a choice of submission: submitting (unintentionally) to the dark and evil powers at work and our want for control/sinful nature, or submitting to the undefeatable powers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who loves us!!

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT) *A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all the strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

What now? (15 minutes)

If you are *willing*, commit to allow the Lord to take the lead in your life, down to the smallest daily details. Ask him to prepare your heart to be receptive to his call. Pray for obedience to follow where he leads.

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please share your prayer requests and praises, so that your LIFE Group may lift you up in prayer. Please pray that the Lord would continue to shape us into his image as disciples of Jesus Christ and that our spiritual growth would profoundly impact our church and surrounding community.