

Week 3.

- What percentage of the World is made up of water? What percentage is fresh & therefore drinkable? *
- Read Genesis 1:9-10,20-31 (& Luke 5:1-11)
- What does God provide in creating watery environments?
- How does the separation of the waters from the earth (v10) affect the way in which we live? Think about rivers, springs & wells also.
- Throughout the Bible, water is given particular symbolic status. Can you think of incidences where it has special significance?
- In Ezekiel 47, God shows Ezekiel that 'wherever the river goes there will be [life]. How is this true for us today?
- How have we neglected to care for our 'rivers of life'? Physically & Spiritually?

785 million people in the world – one in ten – do not have clean water close to home.

[Water Aid website]

- How might a polluted water source affect humankind?
- What can we do to develop a more thoughtful approach to our personal use of water?
- Close in prayer, giving thanks for our supplies of clean fresh water and remembering those who do not have easy access to life giving water to drink, wash or irrigate their crops.



Oceans & Rivers

There are over 600 references to water in the Bible.

'Rivers and streams figure prominently in the Bible. On a physical plane, references to them keep us situated in a real world where water brings life and sustenance and its absence threatens existence. On a symbolic level, streams picture the deepest spiritual realities. The very structure of the Bible draws upon the river: the fructifying river that originates with God appropriately frames the biblical narrative from beginning (Gen 2:10-14) to end (Rev 22:1-2; cf. Ezek 47:5-12; Joel 3:18), and even human beings may be conduits of life when out of their "heart shall flow rivers of living water" (Jn 7:38 NRSV).

[IVP Dictionary of Biblical Imagery via Logos]

Recommended Reading for the Series :

Bible and Ecology : Richard Bauckham : DLT : 2010

Creation As Sacrament; Reflections on Ecology & Spirituality : Revd Dr. John Chryssavgis : T&T Clark : 2019

Blue Planet, Blue God, The Bible & The Sea: Meric Srokosz & Rebecca Watson : SCM : 2017

*** 71% but only 3% is drinkable (Wikipedia)**



Using Water Wisely at Home (From Independent Water Networks Website)

Kitchen

What you can do:

- Use a bowl instead of a running tap for washing vegetables - you can save about five litres of water each time
- Plug the sink and fill it with water to wash dishes and cutlery - try and wait until you have a sink full, if possible
- Avoid rinsing dishes before loading them into the dishwasher
- Use washing machines only if you have a full load, as one full load generally uses less water than two half loads
- Buy energy-efficient appliances and save money on both your electric and water bills!
- Running the tap until the water is cold enough to drink wastes a lot of water - why not collect it and reuse it in your garden?
- Fill your kettle with only the amount of water you need

Bathroom

What you can do:

- Try not to leave the tap running while you brush your teeth, shave or wash your hands, as this can waste up to five litres of water per minute
- Take a shower instead of a bath
- Fix dripping taps - they can waste at least 5,500 litres of water a year! Mending your dripping tap washer could save you more than £18.00 a year
- In older, larger capacity toilet cisterns, you can reduce the amount of water you flush by placing a cistern bag or a cut-down plastic bottle in your cistern.

Garden

What you can do:

- Collect rainwater in a water butt and use it to water your garden.
- Don't use a hosepipe to water your garden. Instead use a watering can, and aim the water at the roots of your plants where it will be most effective.
- You can use collected dishwater on your established plants as long as it doesn't contain harmful chemicals.
- Use mulch around your plants to reduce evaporation and keep weeds down
- Don't water your plants in the direct sunlight
- It's ok to let your lawn go brown during the summer months. Brown lawns are eco-friendly and will recover immediately after rainfall.