

# APOSTOLIC INPUT



## EXPLORING THE RIVER OF GOD



## *DINNER TABLE DISCUSSIONS*

## FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions.

You will be asked questions on the topic. You can open the question to the group as you reach each question.

## TOPIC: SMALL THINGS WITH BIG IMPACT

*Sermon audio:* [outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/288](http://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/288)

### READER 1

Today we are going to look at the river of God. God often uses small things in our lives to have a big impact. Like the river of God that began as a trickle and turned into a power river. Nothing we ever do is insignificant in the kingdom of God. God can multiply when His life touches it.

Throughout chapter 47 of the book Ezekiel we are given a picture of the river flowing through

Jerusalem. The picture of this river shows us many aspects of the Kingdom of God.

### Ezekiel 47:1

**<sup>1</sup>The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east.**

The river through Jerusalem was special, it didn't flow alongside the city, it flowed from within the city, with its source at the temple of God.

God's people didn't build next to a river like all other kingdoms did. God showed them that He is a unique God, He is the source, the life giving water that flowed for the city was from the temple. God is the river for the people, bringing life.

## READER 2

The river of God had a different origin.



Because this river flowed from the dwelling place of God, it showed unique qualities.

God's river has a different nature.

### Ezekiel 47:3-6

<sup>3</sup>As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup>He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup>He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. <sup>6</sup>He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

The river became deeper and flowed faster as it grew further from its source, which is opposite to ordinary rivers. This is a picture to us that the

Kingdom of God doesn't work the same way that the world does.

### READER 3

God's Kingdom works opposite to that of the world. No matter how deep you press into God, you can always go deeper with Him.

John 7:38 (NIV)

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

We get the privilege of carrying the life of God in us, so we should be expectant for things to get deeper as we push further into Him.

**Question 1: Have you chosen to push into God, to know him more and experience the privilege of his life in you?**

The river of God had different life bringing properties.

Ezekiel 47:8-9

<sup>8</sup>He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. <sup>9</sup>Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

The river was able to flow into the Dead Sea, and instead of becoming salty like normal rivers would, it began to bring life as it flowed into a place of death. God’s power has more authority than death. God’s power overrules death.

It is also mentioned that the river brings a different kind of life. It says it brings *swarms* of life. Large quantities of fish and life comparable to a whole sea. The life that God brings is abundant.

## READER 5

The river of God brings a different scope

### Ezekiel 47:10-11

<sup>10</sup>Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>11</sup>But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

The river brings many fishermen to work the resource that it provides, it lets people feed, allowing them to no longer go hungry. It provides people not just with food, but also with business.

There is an abundance of supernatural resources from God.

But the word also mentioned that the river left behind some swamps to remain salty. Some of the resources that the Dead Sea provided were left behind for the people.

The people still needed the salt and the minerals that the Dead Sea had. God knew what they needed and left behind some swampland so that the people had all that they needed.

God doesn't provide a one size fits all solution for us. God meets people where they are and provides for them what they need.

**Question 2: Are you a business person? God wants to bless businesses, are you allowing the river of God to impact not just your personal life, but also your businesses and jobs.**



Where God's river flows, there is a different kind of fruitfulness.

Ezekiel 47:12

<sup>12</sup>Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

The river allows the growth of fruit trees that had leaves that were evergreen and it always bore fruit.

God wants to make us evergreen, His river of life and His power brings fruitfulness in and out of season.

It says the fruit was for food, but also, the leaves were for healing. The life of God is for the healing of the nations. Again God provides for all our needs as we are.

**Question 3: If you take a look at the blessings in your life, are there perhaps things that God has given to you that you are only half using?**

## READER 7

John 7:38 (NIV)

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Wherever we facilitate the life of God, that area becomes holy. The life and fruitfulness of the river of God can flow from within us, all we need to do is facilitate God's life in us.

**SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT**

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. What stood out to you and *why*?

## ACTION STEP

What action step can you take to respond to God's Word?

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