



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

18 OCTOBER 2026

18 OCTOBER SERMON

THE SCENT OF WATER

BROTHER WESLEY WHITEHEAD

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

- Job 14:7-12 : The image of a cut-down tree that can still bud at the scent of water, contrasted with the finality of death for a man without hope in God
 - John 4:7-14: Jesus offers the woman at the well living water that becomes a fountain springing up into everlasting life
 - Ephesians 2:12: A description of those who are without God as having no hope in the world
 - Titus 3:5: Salvation comes not by works of righteousness but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit
 - John 7:38: Out of the belly of the one who believes shall flow rivers of living water
 - Revelation 22:17: The Spirit and the bride extend an open invitation to all who thirst to come and take the water of life freely
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KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **The Bible speaks to every person uniquely.** God meets people where they are, whether through science, literature, law, art, or any other lens. Do not feel that you must understand Scripture the way someone else does. God will speak to you in a way that is personal to you.
2. **Humility and obedience are the foundations of a Spirit-filled life.** Just as a water molecule is formed by two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen, the spiritual life is formed by humility toward God, humility toward others, and obedience to God's call.
3. **You carry a scent.** When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, walk in prayer, and live in obedience, people around you can sense something different. That "scent of living water" can draw a spiritually dry person toward God before a single word is spoken.
4. **Job's hopelessness was real, but incomplete.** Job spoke truthfully about the condition of man without Christ. But since Jesus came, died, and rose again, there is hope for every person. A man can die and live again in Jesus Christ.
5. **The woman at the well is a picture of every person who needs living water.** She came to draw ordinary water and left having encountered Jesus. Those around us are often in the same condition — carrying burdens, living in difficult circumstances, and not knowing where to turn.

6. **Obedience is not the same for every person.** God calls each person according to the unique abilities, temperament, and aptitudes He has placed within them. God will never ask you to do something He will not also enable you to do.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Questions

1. Think about a person in your life who you would describe as someone who simply "carries something" about them - a peace, a warmth, or a joy that you noticed before they ever said anything spiritual. What was it about them that stood out to you?
 2. Have you ever been in a difficult season where a friend or colleague tried to help but their words made things worse rather than better? Without naming names, what did that experience teach you about how to be present for someone who is struggling?
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Going Deeper

3. Brother Wesley described reading Job 14:9 and being arrested by the phrase "the scent of water." A dead stump, with no visible signs of life, can still respond to the nearness of water. What does that image say to you about the spiritual condition of people around you who do not yet know God?
4. The sermon made the point that God speaks to each person on their own terms: through science, through poetry, through law, through design. In what area of life or interest has God most clearly spoken to you through His word? How did that shape your understanding of Scripture?
5. Brother Wesley said that humility is the foundation of prayer because you cannot begin to pray without acknowledging that you have a need to pray. Do you agree with that statement? What does genuine humility in prayer look like in your own life, and where do you find it most difficult to maintain?
6. The woman at the well had five husbands and was living with a sixth man who was not her husband. Jesus did not condemn her. He invited her to receive living water and turn from her lifestyle. What does Jesus's approach to her teach us about how we should engage with people whose lives look very different from our own?
7. The sermon described the scent of living water as something that emanates from a believer through their humility toward God and their obedience to His word. In practical terms, what does that look like in a workplace, a school, or a

neighbourhood? Can you think of a specific moment when someone's quiet witness opened a door for a spiritual conversation?

8. Brother Wesley said, "Some of you today, under the sound of my voice, are the scent of water that someone is in need of smelling." When you hear that statement, who comes to mind in your own circle of relationships? What is one thing that might be holding you back from being that scent of water for them?

Personal Reflection Questions

1. If you were to honestly assess your life right now, would you say that you are more like the budding tree that senses water and responds with life, or more like the dried-out stump that has not yet encountered the living water it needs? What would it take to move toward greater spiritual vitality?
2. The sermon closed with an invitation to embrace humility and obedience. Is there an area of your life where God has been calling you to obey and you have not yet taken that step? What would obedience look like in that specific situation?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Take these concrete steps to live out your faith

1. Identify Your One. Think of one person in your life who is spiritually dry, someone who is hurting, searching, or without hope. Write their name down. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week. Ask God to use you as the scent of living water in their life.

2. Examine Your Scent. Take an honest look at the two elements the sermon highlighted - humility and obedience. Ask yourself: In my interactions with people this past week, did I demonstrate humility? Am I walking in obedience to what God has asked of me? Journal your reflections and bring one honest observation to share with your group next week.

3. Step Out of Your Comfort Zone. The altar call in this service was a picture of humility - physically moving from where you are comfortable to a place of openness before God. This week, identify one act of spiritual courage that takes you out of your comfort zone. It might be initiating a conversation about faith, returning to a prayer habit you have let slip, or reaching out to someone you have been avoiding.

4. Revisit the Invitation. Read John 4:1-30 on your own this week — the full account of Jesus and the woman at the well. As you read, pay attention to how Jesus initiated the conversation, how He handled her past without condemning her, and how the

encounter ultimately affected her entire community. Ask God to show you what you can learn from His approach.

5. Consider Baptism. If you have never been baptized in water in the name of Jesus, or if you know someone who has not, let this week be the week you take that step or encourage that conversation. As the pastor mentioned, every day is a good day. Do not wait for a perfect moment.

CLOSING PRAYER GUIDE

- **Thanksgiving** — Thank God for the living water He has made available through Jesus Christ and for the hope that exists because of the resurrection.
- **Intercession** — Pray by name for the people each group member identified as their "one" — the spiritually dry person who needs to encounter the living water.
- **Surrender** — Ask God to cultivate humility and obedience in each person present, so that the scent of living water flows naturally from their lives into the lives of those around them.