



## Week 1 Small Group: The Broken Cup

### Opening Prayer:

Amazing God, we come before you and long to know you better. Help us to see the ways you call us and to live into being the people you have created us to be. Imprint your message of love on our hearts, so that all we do in your name is a witness to your grace. Amen.

### Quote

*O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen. Henri Nouwen*

**Breaking the Ice:** Where do you store or display the things that you treasure most?

### Wrestling with the Word:

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:5-11

- What is “this treasure” in the jars of clay? What are the different images that are offered to describe this treasure, such as light?
- What does it mean to “proclaim Jesus as Lord”?
- What kind of pain does Paul describe that the faithful are facing?

### Next Steps:

- Where do you see this treasure in your life?
- Where in your life has God used your brokenness (or where have you seen God bring purpose and beauty out of brokenness)?
- How does the treasure in your jars of clay keep you from being crushed, in despair, abandoned, etc. (vs 7-9)?
- A fountain is free flowing and plentiful. Grace is God’s unmerited favor. Where do you see the fountain of grace in this lesson?

### Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, fill our cups this week, so our souls can be quenched by your love and so that we can go from full to overflowing, spilling your goodness and mercy into the world around us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



## Week 2 Small Group: The Cup of Living Water

### Opening Prayer:

Amazing God, we come before you and long to know you better. Help us to see the ways you call us and to live into being the people you have created us to be. Imprint your message of love on our hearts, so that all we do in your name is a witness to your grace. Amen.

### Quote

*As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you. Teresa of Calcutta*

**Breaking the Ice:** Can you name a time where you discovered you belonged when you didn't think you would?

### Wrestling with the Word:

Read: John 4:7-29, 39

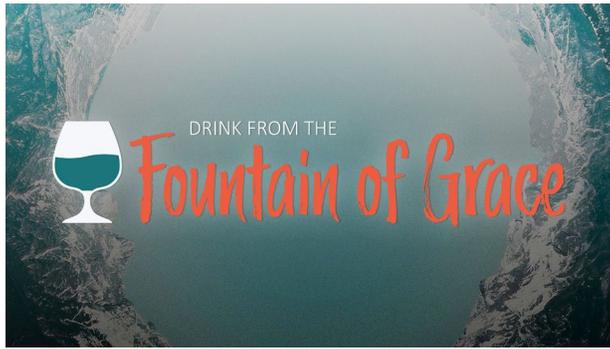
- What do you notice about the interplay of literal water and figurative water in the conversation between Jesus and the woman?
- What is the living water for this woman?
- At every point in this Scripture, Jesus was connecting with this woman as she is. Why do you think Jesus asked the woman to call her husband and come back? What other stories of meetings at wells do you know from the Bible (Gen 24, 29)?

### Next Steps:

- Describe a time when Jesus encountered you or you encountered Jesus. Who do you know who needs to hear your story?
- This is a story of someone from the outside who Jesus welcomes and offers a gift. How do you offer this gift to people who do not think, look or act like you? How does your congregation offer living water?
- A fountain is free flowing and plentiful. Grace is God's unmerited favor. Where do you see the fountain of grace in this lesson?

### Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, fill our cups this week, so our souls can be quenched by your love and so that we can go from full to overflowing, spilling your goodness and mercy into the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## Week 3 Small Group: The Cup You Choose

### Opening Prayer:

Amazing God, we come before you and long to know you better. Help us to see the ways you call us and to live into being the people you have created us to be. Imprint your message of love on our hearts, so that all we do in your name is a witness to your grace. Amen.

### Quote

*Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring. Catherine of Siena*

**Breaking the Ice:** Name one area in your life that you feel like you made the choice to move forward. It does not need to be monumental. It can be a simple everyday choice.

### Wrestling with the Word:

Read Psalm 16

- What is the psalmist asking God for? How does his reminder of God's provision lead him to choose the cup? What are the blessings of that choice?
- What are the implications the psalmist's life for choosing the Lord as his portion and cup?
- What were the consequences for those who choose other gods, according to the psalmist? (Use the NRSV version for this insight.)

### Next Steps:

- What are some ways you can choose to keep the Lord always before you that will be a blessing?
- How has your life changed since you decided to follow God? What will look different in your life as you choose God each day?
- When faced with challenges many of us struggle with affirming that God is both sovereign and good. Have you ever struggled with this? How so?
- A fountain is free flowing and plentiful. Grace is God's unmerited favor. Where do you see the fountain of grace in this lesson?

### Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, fill our cups this week, so our souls can be quenched by your love and so that we can go from full to overflowing, spilling your goodness and mercy into the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## Week 4 Small Group: The Cup of Discipleship

### Opening Prayer:

Amazing God, we come before you and long to know you better. Help us to see the ways you call us and to live into being the people you have created us to be. Imprint your message of love on our hearts, so that all we do in your name is a witness to your grace. Amen.

### Quote

*Every moment and every event of everyone's life on earth plants something in their soul. Thomas Merton.*

**Breaking the Ice:** Has anyone ever asked for something on your behalf and embarrassed you?

### Wrestling with the Word:

Read Matthew 20:20-28

- What is the cup of discipleship? What does Jesus say it mean to be a disciple?
- What does humility have to do with following Jesus?
- What is this cup that Jesus is drinking and how do the sons also drink from this cup?

### Next Steps:

- Tell about a time when your discipleship led you to a place of discomfort. Has your discipleship ever made you uncomfortable or caused you to give something up for the sake of a greater good?
- We are now in week 4 in Lent. How have your spiritual practices or sacrifices helped you see this passage in a new light? What do you commit to do or be after reading this passage?
- What have you given up to follow Jesus?
- A fountain is free flowing and plentiful. Grace is God's unmerited favor. Where do you see the fountain of grace in this lesson?

### Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, fill our cups this week, so our souls can be quenched by your love and so that we can go from full to overflowing, spilling your goodness and mercy into the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## Week 5 Small Group: The Cup of Compassion

### Opening Prayer:

Amazing God, we come before you and long to know you better. Help us to see the ways you call us and to live into being the people you have created us to be. Imprint your message of love on our hearts, so that all we do in your name is a witness to your grace. Amen.

### Quote

*Without the burden of afflictions, it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases.” Rose of Lima.*

**Breaking the Ice:** Name a time when someone did a small act of compassion for you that had a bigger impact than they might have realized.

### Wrestling with the Word:

Read Matthew 25:34-40

- Justice has a two-fold meaning: punishment for the wicked and putting the world right (i.e., right relationship). How does God live out both definitions of justice?
- What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
- How do you respond to the clear judgment of this passage? What does it teach you?

### Next Steps

- Jesus provides six areas of need. Which is the most comfortable for you to serve? The most difficult?
- Who would you add to the list of who to serve in light of the world today?
- Would you, as a group, volunteer in one of the ministry areas you discussed today? Make a plan and mark your calendar.
- A fountain is free flowing and plentiful. Grace is God’s unmerited favor. Where do you see the fountain of grace in this lesson?

### Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, fill our cups this week, so our souls can be quenched by your love and so that we can go from full to overflowing, spilling your goodness and mercy into the world around us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.