



just WATER

SESSION 2

MOVEMENT MESSAGE

MESSAGE: RIGHT AGAIN

INTRODUCTION

In Session 2 we will begin to learn about water and why it matters, then come up with creative solutions for helping everyone on the planet have access to it. Because the truth is, water is part of breaking life-threatening cycles of poverty in people's lives. And that's something we can learn to support on our JUST WATER journey.

VIDEO

Click on the link to the right to watch and download the *Right Relationship* video for Session 2.

Or visit <https://vimeo.com/131470401>





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TEACHING OUTLINE

MESSAGE: RIGHT AGAIN

CONNECTION

Have you ever been in a car that was out of alignment? Or have you ever seen something that just wasn't right? Maybe when you saw something weird happening with the weather or someone doesn't get something they worked hard for, you and your friends said in unison, "Whoa, that's not right?!"

Water is out of alignment too--it's one of those things that isn't right in some places and God has a plan for us to get involved to be able to make water just again. What is just water? It's water returning to a place in the world where it brings life--not sickness. It's water that is shared--not scarce. It is water that leads to hope, growth, and freedom--not despair, weakness, and oppression. Just water is water that is good, as God created it to be.

oppression <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/oppression>

noun op-pres-sion \ə-'pre-shən\

1

a : unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power

b : something that [oppresses](#) especially in being an unjust or excessive exercise of power

2

: a sense of being weighed down in body or mind :

THE ACHE

ALMOST ONE BILLION PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT SAFE WATER. [Count to 60. In that time, a child has died because of water-related illnesses that could have been prevented. In fact, a child dies every single minute because of water-related illnesses that could have been prevented.](#) It's obvious that something isn't right. (Here's our cue, young church.) It's time for us to notice the corrupt systems and relationships that give water inequality a foothold in the world.

God isn't silent on the issue.
And neither do we need to be

GOD SPEAKS

Genesis 2:1-15: The story of Eden. The rivers in Eden and the placement of Adam there shows how water came first and came to support the lives of the humans God created. This was how God had imagined we would live forever. But we didn't. ***Sin changed the landscape of our world and the landscape of our hearts.***

It was God's plan through Jesus that we would be returned to a place of rightness and that all of creation would follow. Jesus did this by joining the suffering he saw and being the catalyst for it's redemption.

Justice becomes intimate for you when injustice is no longer about someone else far away, but about a brother or sister in the family of God.

God is inviting you to embrace this way of life.

Jesus sets up the work flow and that takes us straight to the heart of justice.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' this is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40, NIV)

Jesus is giving us a clear picture of what right relationship looks like.

Psalm 33:4-5 says that God loves whatever is good and just. That means we can trust everything that God does.

We can trust Jesus when he offers us living water.

We can trust him that this is the truth.

We can trust that our participation in Just Water is a part of a bigger story that ultimately will make all things new.

ACTIVITY

Foot Washing

THE HOPE

Psalm 107:1-9

This Psalm is knowledge we need to keep going. Our burdens could turn to burnout if we ignore the promises that God provides. Our burdens could feel too heavy to bear if we forget our position as advocates on the journey, supporting one another in the story of God's care for the world. Your life, wrapped in Christ, wrapped in the Church, can help make things right.

WHY WATER?

A better question might be, Why not? Why wouldn't we care when so many suffer? We can amplify the voices of those who aren't being heard. We can speak on behalf of those voices that have been quieted and beg to be heard.

LANDING (CALL TO ACTION)

Water is made **right** when you get **right** in the middle of what God is doing through the Church.

The question is, Are you ready to join God's justice? Are you ready to make a move? If the answer is yes, then welcome to the adventure.



just WATER

TEACHING SCRIPT

MESSAGE: WHERE THERE IS WATER, THERE IS LIFE.

CONNECTION

Have you ever been in a car that was out of alignment? The driver has to use extra effort to keep the car going in a straight line. The car wasn't designed to do that. It loses its alignment over time when it hits bumps in the road, and it can't get back in line without some major adjustments. It's the same with water. Water is out of alignment in our world, and God has a plan for us to get involved in making things right again.

Right relationships are at the heart of justice; relationships between God and us, us and each other, and between us and creation. All three things are strengthened by the others. God had a plan for water from the beginning and wants to invite us into the solution of making it right again.

THE ACHE IN THE WORLD

Sometimes we forget how basic and necessary water is.

Sometimes we think that [the global water situation](#) is unchangeable because it's so big.

Sometimes we are unaware that our water story could be different and that we have a lot to learn about speaking on another person's behalf.

The bottom line is that water doesn't come easy for people all over the world, it isn't clean for many, and hygiene isn't always a given. The lack of all three take away from what it means to be whole. To be healthy. To be cared for in the most basic ways.

God created water (Genesis 1:6-10). It's one of life's basic necessities. But there is a crisis. 700 million people live without clean drinking water. Why, when water was meant to support life and change our lives, is it making so many sick? Why isn't it available to everyone? Some women and kids spend hours and hours each day just gathering water. Walking for water leaves them vulnerable. Drinking water that causes sickness leaves people vulnerable. Poor sanitation causes even more sickness. And kids miss out on education because they're walking for water. If water changes everything, then why isn't it changing all of our lives for good? What can we do?

We can begin by learning about water and why it matters and then come up with creative solutions for helping everyone on the planet have access to it. Because the truth is, water is part of breaking life-threatening cycles of poverty in people's lives. And that's something we can learn to support on our JUST WATER journey.

THE TRUTH IN GOD'S WORD

Tell a personal story about a time when something was made right in your world.

- Think of times when you were convinced that something was true.
- Think of moments when something happened that proved the hope you have.
- Think of your childhood and the ways and reasons you believed and hoped so wildly.

Psalm 33:4-5 NIV says:

*“For the word of the Lord is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.”*

When we see things made right again, when we see creation and hearts restored, we see our God. This is our God, the one who fills the world with unfailing love and is faithful in what is right and true.

You're going to be learning a lot about the word justice during this series, about what it means and what it looks like in the world. But one very important thing that you have to know and may have never thought about is this: At the heart of justice is right relationship. In fact, the reason why God cares so much about putting right is so we can be in right relationship with Him, with each other, and with this world.

An easy way for us to recognize when justice isn't flowing like a river—when things aren't in right relationship—is when we see that the very things that were meant to bring life are actually causing death and sickness.

Catch the story in Genesis Chapter 2 (NIV)

“This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Can you see the picture in your mind now? Everything in right relationship. The earth, the water, humans, and God. It's hard for us to even imagine on this side of Eden, but this is all we were meant to know. It was God's plan (God's heart) that we would only know justice and goodness all of our lives. God **intended** right relationships.

This is where the story of water comes in. It plays out in the Bible that this life-sustaining gift from God becomes a means of destruction and death. We see this in the form of droughts in the land, scarcity and suffering. Things clearly

aren't right as they were in the Garden. Creation ached. Hearts ached. And water became something different than it was created for.

BUT because God is true and right, sets out to put things right—to redeem creation, water, and his people. Jesus tells us in the book of John that anyone who is thirsty can come to him and drink. *“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:38 NIV*

God longs to see the return of right relationships. God longs to see water become a healing thing instead of a hurting thing. And this is still the journey we're on today.

In our world today nearly 1 BILLION PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT SAFE WATER. A child dies every minute because of water related illnesses that could have been prevented. It's obvious that something isn't right. Relationships aren't right. **How do we change it?**

You change it by imagining your brother, your sister, your family, yourself. And then responding out of care and concern.

STORY:

Things changed when youth in South Asia (Nepal - show the map) had compassion on the neighbors living in higher altitudes--barren and dry lands contribute to a scarce water situation The youth noticed how the long walks for water (oftentimes contaminated) cause pain for the people. They suffered without fresh, clean water. The youth of Nepal imagined that the suffering was their own. They imagined it was happening to their own family. They got involved in making things right by raising the money to drill a tube well, and then they dug it themselves.

It's a beautiful story but also complicated. Raising funds wasn't easy. Sometimes volunteers didn't show up. The youth who started the project began to see how the whole village could use these challenges as an exercise in unity. They didn't give up, they trusted that justice was a worthy dream, and they made a way to eliminate the suffering created by a lack of safe, clean water.

Justice becomes intimate for you when injustice is no longer about someone else far away, but about a brother or sister in the family of God.

God is inviting you to embrace this way of life.

There was a man who approached Jesus and tried to trick him. He asked, *“Which is the greatest commandment?”* Jesus didn't hesitate to bring the man straight to the heart of justice.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31 NIV

Jesus gives us a clear picture of what right relationship looks like.

Imagine three streams flowing into a garden. If one is weaker than the others, then the whole garden suffers. The parts that become weak and malnourished die and infect the parts that are still healthy. Our life is meant to nourish the lives of those around us and to find ways to break the cycles that keep nourishment from others. Our lives should be like three equal flowing streams of love for God, self, and others.

God's word reveals that whenever we encounter people who are hurting, lost, imprisoned, widowed, orphaned,

marginalized, whenever we hear about people who suffer without fresh, clean water — when you bump into people with these stories it is very much like bumping into Jesus. It's our opportunity to serve him and to move on their behalf.

God cares so intimately about justice that He places himself in the place of those suffering injustice.

You never have to second guess yourself when your decisions are directed by the priorities of Jesus. Your voice for the sick will be a place where you see God. Your effort to support people in need is a ministry directly to Jesus. Your desire to listen for the cry of a child is a desire to be close to God's heart.

To do justice the way that Jesus taught would mean that you wouldn't be able to sleep until you knew that the one in front of you, the one who is suffering, would be more okay today than yesterday.

You wouldn't be able to rest until you knew for sure that your brother or sister was safe. You simply wouldn't have the ability to remove yourself from their place of suffering.

Are we prepared for issues of justice to become this intimate in our lives?

An advocate within the Justice Movement recently traveled to Mozambique to a village with a depleting water source. In this village they had a functioning hand pump well, but it broke. That meant women and children would have to return to walking a great distance for water each day, and they would have to gather water contaminated by disease.

The advocate watched as women and kids stood in the back of the line, hoping there would still be some left when it came to their turn to reach in and draw water. Next to the water source there was a dirty puddle. This is where everyone was forced to draw water once the source was dry for the day.

The advocate watched this happening, and she couldn't help but imagine her two little girls cupping their hands and drinking from that dirty puddle and thinking, *This can't be! This simply cannot be.*

This reality isn't right. And it won't become right until issues like clean water and sanitation become so intimate for us that we see our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters, in them.

An awesome moment between Jesus and his disciples was when Jesus washes the disciples feet. Jesus did the simple things that expressed profound truth, wisdom, and love.

The disciples had been walking around in their hot, filthy sandals all day, and now they were coming in for a meal. The way they ate was to lounge, so someone's feet wouldn't be far from your face. So imagine eating a meal without someone's sweaty, dirty feet dripping all over your food. Jesus sees the need and he cares for them in a very intimate and personal way. He takes what's wrong in the room (dirty, smelly feet) and makes them right. But he doesn't tell a servant to do it — he becomes the servant and gets it done.

He's inviting you and me to do the same. As you learn the stories of water problems in your backyard and all over the world, you have an opportunity to be the divine interruption that changes things.

ACTIVITY

Have a simple foot washing ceremony with your group.

Gather a basin, bucket, or other container to hold a bit of water. Get some rags, towels, or other cloth to wipe each person's feet. Before you begin, notice the effect water has on the cloth you use. Your action combined with the addition of water to a cloth changes the reality of a person's feet situation.

Take turns washing feet and praying that God will show you the needs of the people around you, that God would break your heart to help make things right again. Pray that you would all get involved in supporting the Church as it brings clean, safe water to the kids and families who are in desperate need.



We can trust him when he prioritizes serving others over wanting to be served.

We can trust that our participation in the restoration of water is a part of a bigger story that ultimately will make all things new.

THE HOPE

Every one of us has the opportunity to be a part of Just Water in the world. Every one of us has the chance to be a part of God's [plan](#) to satisfy the thirsty in every corner of the earth.

Read Psalm 107 NSRA (paraphrased)

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some wandered in the desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. God led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind. For God satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry God fills with good things.

LANDING

Water is made right when you get right in the middle of what God is doing through the Church to restore justice.

The question is, are you ready to join the Justice Movement? Are you ready to make a move? If the answer is yes, then welcome to the adventure.

RECITE SCRIPTURE TOGETHER:

*"But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24, NIV)*



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SMALL GROUPS

NOTE FOR LEADER OR PARENT:

Ask questions in a pace that works for your group or family. Silence can be a good thing. Try to steer away from yes/no questions, and affirm the different contributions each person gives to the discussion. You can facilitate the group conversation to be most meaningful by giving more time to the places people feel most engaged.

GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1) Assume you have access to safe water. How would your life change if you didn't have access to safe water?
- 2) Now, assume you do not have access to safe water. How would your life change if you were to gain access?
- 3) Sin changed the landscape of our hearts and our world. Love changes it too. What are some ways you've seen love change the landscape of your life?
- 4) What makes not having access to clean safe water unjust? What does the word unjust mean to you?
- 5) Describe and brainstorm some ideas about how you would like to see your church get involved in changing the global water crisis.