

Renewal: Swimming in Deep Water

Series: *First Things First*

– Ezekiel 47:1-12 –

In both the Old and New Testaments, water is frequently associated with the salvation of God and the cleansing and life-imparting ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. *Wherever the river goes there's life.*

2. *A great harvest results from the rise in the river.*

3. *Life doesn't come from living in the swamps.*

4. *Everything touched by the river bears fruit and is used to bring healing.*

Application Questions . . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. How does the river in Ezekiel differ from natural rivers and streams? How does it point us to Christ (John 4:13-14; 7:37-39)?
3. Is coming to Jesus and coming to church the same? Why or why not? What then does 'come to Me' mean (Jn. 7:37ff)?
4. Why are some places not healed by the river of life (vs. 11)? How would you describe the difference between *swamp* and *river* living?
5. Why is it that Christians seem to have dry, thirsty lives when the water of life is available? What do you think attracts people to stagnant water?
6. If you picture the spiritual life as a river that keeps getting deeper and deeper, are you: Testing the water? Ankle deep? Up to your waist? What is the next step? How can the small group pray for you?

