

An aerial photograph of a winding river or stream flowing through a dry, cracked landscape. The water is a dark, murky green-brown color, contrasting with the light tan, cracked earth. The river meanders from the top right towards the bottom left, with several smaller pools and tributaries branching off. The cracks in the earth are deep and irregular, forming a network across the dry land.

# FULLNES

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

*week of*  
PRAYER  
JANUARY 2 - 9

“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 (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

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. 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. 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. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. 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. 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.”

**Ezekiel 47:1-9**

Dear church family,

Well, we made it! 2021 is officially over and we have begun a new year – welcome 2022! We want to start this year well by praying about who we are becoming and by intentionally seeking Jesus and His way. Our vision as a church is *Fullness of Life for Everyone by Practicing the Way of Jesus Together*. As we prayed about what this week should be about, we were brought back to our vision and our pursuit of *fullness* as a community. As we enter 2022, we are asking Jesus to bring His fullness to Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and Parkland County.

When the Scriptures talk about fullness, they regularly use the image of water. Water is essential to life just as the work of the Spirit is essential to our fullness of life in Christ. We look forward to intentionally journeying with you this week through daily study of various passages in the Scriptures about water. To prepare for the week, please read the excerpt from Ezekiel 47:1-9 on the opposite page.

Wherever the river flows, everything will live. May it be so. Come Lord Jesus, come.

Grace and Peace,

The SPAC Staff

“Forget the former  
things; do not dwell  
on the past. See, I  
am doing a  
new thing!  
Now it springs up;  
do you not  
perceive it?  
I am making a way in  
the wilderness and  
streams in  
the wasteland.”  
**Isaiah 43:18-19**

## MONDAY

### READ **Isaiah 43:14-19**

The prophet Isaiah is writing to a people who are in the midst of exile in Babylon, and he is letting them know that God is going to move on their behalf. God reminds the people of how he has moved on their behalf in the past through their exodus from Egypt. God is building faith in his people and saying that he's going to do it again, but then he makes a strange command: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past” (v. 18). Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past? What could God be saying? He continues. “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (v. 19). God is asking his people to set aside what's happened before, how he's moved in the past, so that they can experience what he's going to do in the present. He's going to bring them out of Babylon in an entirely different way than he brought them out of Egypt, but he knows that they will miss it if they keep looking for a repeat of the past.

What if it's the same for us today? What if we hold so tightly to the past that we miss out on what God's doing in our present? We don't want to forget the former things in such a way that we forget our stories and forget God's faithfulness — Israel continued to recount their deliverance stories generation after generation. Rather, we want to ensure that our memories of the former things don't limit what God is doing or wants to do in our present. What new thing is God springing up in you? What stream in the wasteland is he hoping to carve out in your life? What spaces of your life are dry that need a touch of his fullness?

**REFLECT** Carve out ten minutes today to sit with Jesus and ask the following questions.

Q. What has God done in my past? Take some time to list out the ways that he has worked in your life, and celebrate those things

Q. How am I limiting God's movement in my life today based on what's happened before?

**PRAY** Give gratitude to God for how he has worked in your life. Pray for an openness to what God can and wants to do in the coming year.

“That person is  
like a tree  
planted by  
streams of water,  
which yields its  
fruit in season  
and whose leaf  
does not wither  
—whatever they  
do prospers.”

**Psalm 1:3**

## TUESDAY

### READ **Psalm 1**

The Psalms begin with a contrast between two types of people and ways of living — the wicked and the righteous. The wicked are those who rebel against God's way and live for themselves and their desires. The righteous, on the other hand, are those who live in God's way, living in right relationship with God and others. We must all choose between these two ways. Jesus refers to one as the wide road that leads to destruction and the other as a narrow road that leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14). This Psalm invites us to live in the way of righteousness — to take the narrow road and discover *fullness of life*. While the way of the wicked will leave you withered and dried out, the way of the righteous is a life sustained by streams of living water, planted by a river and growing fruit in season.

Today, let's lean into this way of life that delights in the law of the Lord and meditate on this passage. Eugene Peterson, in his book *Eat This Book*, talks about how meditating on Scripture is like a dog gnawing on a bone. We work it, sit with it, and give it our attention. Today you are invited to prayerfully meditate on this passage and allow the Spirit to help you examine which way your life is going.

**REFLECT** Meditate on Psalm 1, reading it through multiple times.

Q. How am I walking in the ways of the wicked? (v. 1-2)

As things come up take time to confess them to Jesus, understanding that as we do, he will remove them and separate them from us (Psalm 103:10-12). He will forgive us our sins and purify us from them.

Q. How do I feel like chaff these days, dried out and in need of new life? (v. 4)

Q. What do I need to embrace to send the roots of my life deeper into the living water of God's Spirit?

**PRAY** Based on your meditation, ask the Spirit to exchange your old ways of wickedness for new ways of righteousness. Commit to him the things you need to embrace in order to send down deep roots, asking for his guidance and strength.



“Let anyone who  
is thirsty come to  
me and drink.  
Whoever  
believes in me,  
as Scripture has  
said, rivers of  
living water will  
flow from  
within them.”  
John 7:37-38

WEDNESDAY

READ **John 7:37-39**

This passage finds Jesus in the temple during the Jewish Festival of Booths. One of the big markers of this festival was a ritual of the priest pouring out living water (water that is from a moving source; not well water) from the fountain of Siloam on the steps of the Temple. It was enacted to remind the people of their dependency on God to bring the rain for the crops as well as to recall God's provision of water from a rock in the Exodus story (Numbers 20:1-13). It's in this context that Jesus talks about how living water will flow from within *them* and not the temple. God is doing something new in his people through his Spirit.

Because of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, we have this same Spirit living in us – a pool of living water. The Spirit is constantly flowing in us and through us. We are called by Paul to be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). This is not a one-time event, but rather, a continuous process as we submit ourselves to the Lordship of Christ. As this happens, we do not get more of the Spirit; the Spirit gets more of us! He is given more space to move in and through our lives.

**PRACTICE** Join our community in a **fast** day today. Jesus invites us to come to him hungry and thirsty. Let us allow our hunger to be a reminder of our need for the infilling of the Holy Spirit in our lives. How you fast today is up to you — it can be for one meal or it can be for the whole day. If fasting from food is not something that you can engage in today for whatever reason, consider fasting from something else that is a part of your regular rhythm (i.e. internet usage, social media, music, television, etc.).

**COME** Join us tonight at **7PM** at the church building for time of prayer as we seek the filling of the Spirit together.

**PRAY** Take time to sit with Jesus asking what you need to continue to submit to his Lordship (if there's anything else that comes up after yesterday's confession). Submit these things to him and ask him to fill those spaces. Ask him to flow as living water and to bring his power, love, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7) into your life.

“Blessed are  
those who  
hunger and  
thirst for  
righteousness,  
for they will  
be filled.”  
Matthew 5:6

## THURSDAY

### READ **Matthew 5:6**

Sometimes we find ourselves dissatisfied with our walk with Christ. We are disheartened by our level of engagement with spiritual practices or community and we long for more. A common response to our dissatisfaction is self-condemnation as we punish ourselves for not being better or further ahead. Instead, what if we saw our discontent as hungering and thirsting for righteousness? What if we viewed our dissatisfaction as an invitation from the Holy Spirit to walk into deeper waters with Him? Is it possible that we are condemning where we should be embracing?

Perhaps our self-deprecation is keeping us from more — keeping us from receiving the promise of fullness that the Spirit wants to fulfill in us. Today, let's bring our hunger and thirst to him.

**REFLECT** Carve out ten minutes today to sit with Jesus and ask the following questions:

Q. What am I hungering and thirsting for? Where is my attention and affection going? Where do I need more righteousness in my life?

Q. Where do I feel a dissatisfaction in my journey of apprenticing with Jesus?

**PRAY** Jesus, as the Righteous One, please satisfy me with your righteousness and help me walk in your ways. Create in me a hunger for more of you — a hunger to be with you, become like you, and do what you do.

“They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

**Jeremiah 17:8**

FRIDAY

READ **Jeremiah 17:5-8**

This passage, much like Psalm 1, makes a comparison between two ways of living. Psalm 1 compares the cursed and the blessed and asks you to decide where you will place your trust. The cursed person is the one who trusts in humanity for their life, whereas the blessed person places their trust in God to bring life. The question remains – where are you looking to find life and sustenance?

In our passage today, the one who places their trust in God is like a tree that is planted and sends its roots out to the water. The sending of the roots speaks to an intention. The tree is looking for life, not haphazardly letting its roots grow wherever they will. Our spiritual formation is much the same. Yes, there is a lot of opportunity for us to stumble upon encounters with Jesus, but deep sustainable growth requires intentionally rooting oneself in the stream of living water that is the Spirit of God. These acts of sustainable rooting are known as spiritual practices or disciplines - things like prayer, scripture reading, worship, serving, silence, solitude and the like. Our growth happens best in the context of *intentional community* where we partner with other apprentices of Jesus who are intentionally rooting themselves in God. As we send our roots out, we find a life source that sustains us through the hardships of life and dry seasons, and we find that the Spirit is still bearing His fruit in us through it all.

REFLECT Carve out ten minutes today to sit with Jesus and ask the following questions:

- Q. Where am I finding it easy to trust Jesus? Where am I finding it difficult? Why is that?
- Q. What spiritual practice can I embrace to send my roots down deeper and more sustainably into Jesus?
- Q. Who am I intentionally journeying with in my apprenticeship with Jesus? Who can I intentionally invite to journey with me in an apprenticeship journey with Jesus?

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you grow in trust. If there are things you're struggling to trust him with, let him know. Explore this trust issue with Jesus. If you have an idea of a spiritual practice that you could embrace, commit to exploring it with Jesus.

“For I will pour water  
on the thirsty  
land, and streams on  
the dry ground; I will  
pour out my Spirit on  
your offspring, and  
my blessing on your  
descendants. They  
will spring up like  
grass in a meadow,  
like poplar trees by  
flowing streams.”

**Isaiah 44:3-4**

## SATURDAY

### READ Isaiah 44:1-8

This passage is found, like our passage on Monday, in the context of Israel's exile in Babylon. Israel is thirsty ground. They have been away from the land, stripped of the temple, and living in disorientation. Through the prophet though, they discover that God isn't done with them. He is doing a new thing. He is pouring water on their thirsty ground and it looks like the Spirit being poured out on their descendants and their offspring being blessed. While the trajectory of their ancestors had led them into exile, the trajectory of their descendants is leading them to fullness. They will be like shrubs growing up along a flowing stream.

God is in the business of transforming lives and family stories and he is doing so in our lives as well. He is at work in our family units. He is at work in our church. God has been preparing us through the past season for the new thing he wants to spring up in us.

What if he has blessing for the coming generations? What if he's going to pour out his Spirit on our descendants? Let's live in eager expectation of this. Let's seek it out. Let's pursue the fullness of life that he offers, not just for ourselves but for our kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. And let us seek it for the future of our church, both today and in the decades to come.

**REFLECT** Today we want you ask Jesus the following questions and listen. What do you think he is saying to you? Let us know what you're hearing by emailing [matt@spaconline.com](mailto:matt@spaconline.com).

Q. Jesus, what blessing do you have for me and my family?

Q. Jesus, what's on your heart for our church family? What blessing do you have for us?

**PRAY** Thank Jesus for being at work in our families and church. Bless him as the one who blesses from generation to generation.





**STONY PLAIN**  
ALLIANCE CHURCH

[WWW.SPACONLINE.COM](http://WWW.SPACONLINE.COM) | 780.963.2082