

GLORY RIVER FREE RESOURCE BIBLE STUDY

TIM SHEETS
RACHEL SHAFER

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CHAPTER ONE

GLORY RIVER (TIM SHEETS)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is the river of God as an image of His presence flowing to fill the earth with His glory, bringing healing, restoration, and rest to the wounded. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter presents the rising river as the outpouring of God's presence that restores the soul.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Habakkuk 2:14 (NIV)
- Ezekiel 47:5
- Psalm 23:2–3 (NKJV)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Habakkuk 2:14 anchors the chapter with the promise that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." The chapter reads this as a description of the present era, in which God's presence spreads worldwide like rising water. Ezekiel 47:5 supplies the picture of the river rising in progressive stages—ankle deep, knee deep, waist deep, and finally "waters to swim in"—flowing from the throne through the temple. The author connects his prophetic experience to Ezekiel's vision, presenting increasing depth as an invitation to go further into God's presence. Psalm 23:2–3 grounds the theme of rest and healing: the Lord "leads me beside the still waters" and "restores my soul." The chapter applies this to those carrying trauma, grief, and heavy burdens, portraying the gentle, still waters as the place where the Father's presence mends what life's battles have broken. Together the cited verses teach that God's presence, pictured as a river, fills the earth with His glory while personally restoring the wounded soul.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Habakkuk 2:14 promises the earth will be filled "with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." What would it mean for that knowledge to fill your own life more fully?
2. Ezekiel 47:5 describes water rising to different depths. Where are you in that picture

right now—ankle deep, or ready for "waters to swim in"—and what might going deeper look like for you?

3. Psalm 23:2–3 says the Lord "restores my soul." What area of your soul most needs His restoration in this season?
4. The chapter describes resting in God's presence when nothing else is possible. How does Psalm 23:2–3 give you permission simply to rest rather than strive?
5. Habakkuk 2:14 speaks of glory covering the earth "as the waters cover the sea." How does this image affect the way you view the difficulties around you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Habakkuk 2:14 together. As a group, discuss what it means that the knowledge of God's glory is meant to fill the *whole* earth, and how that shapes your expectation for this era.
2. Ezekiel 47:5 pictures a river deepening in stages. As a group, discuss what the different depths might represent in a believer's walk with God.
3. Psalm 23:2–3 speaks of "still waters" and a restored soul. Discuss how God's leading toward rest differs from the world's approach to handling exhaustion and pain.
4. The chapter emphasizes that God's presence heals trauma and grief. Using Psalm 23:2–3 as the anchor, discuss how believers can create space to receive that kind of restoration.
5. How do the images in Habakkuk 2:14 and Ezekiel 47:5—water covering the sea and a rising river—encourage you when circumstances feel dry or barren?

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, thank You that Your glory is rising to fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. I come to You just as I am, carrying whatever burdens, wounds, and weariness life has brought. Lead me beside Your still waters and restore my soul. Search my heart and show me where I have been striving instead of resting in Your presence. I trust You to heal what has been broken and to carry me deeper into Your glory, from ankle deep to waters to swim in. I surrender my grief and my need to You, and I ask that Your presence would surround me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, set aside a few unhurried minutes to simply rest in God's presence, using Psalm 23:2–3 as your guide. Read the verses slowly, then quiet yourself before the Lord without asking for anything—letting Him "restore your soul." When a burden or painful memory surfaces, picture yourself resting beside His still waters and hand that weight to Him rather than carrying it alone.

If any of the themes of trauma or grief in this chapter touch something you're carrying personally, please know it's okay to reach out to a trusted person or professional for support, and I'm glad to help you find resources if that would be useful.

CHAPTER TWO

HELL DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE (TIM SHEETS)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is confident faith in the midst of a great shaking—trusting that God is actively working through His Word and His unshakable Kingdom to overturn evil and bring revival. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter calls believers to boldness, thanksgiving, and steadiness rather than fear.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Isaiah 51:16 (NKJV)
- Acts 4:29 (referenced)
- Hebrews 12:28 (NLT)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Isaiah 51:16 declares that God has put His words in the mouth of His people and covered them "with the shadow of My hand," so that He may "plant the heavens" and "lay the foundations of the earth." The chapter reads this as God's method of sowing His Word into both the spiritual and natural realms, with those seed-words now coming to maturity and fruitfulness. Acts 4:29 is referenced as the pattern for the boldness the author sought—recalling how the early apostles prayed for boldness to speak God's Word. Hebrews 12:28 anchors the response to shaking: because believers are "receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable," they are to be thankful and to worship God "with holy fear and awe." The chapter applies this to seasons of upheaval, arguing that a believer's stability comes from belonging to a Kingdom that cannot be moved, so that shaking need not produce fear. Together the cited verses teach that God speaks and plants His Word, empowers His people with boldness, and secures them in an unshakable Kingdom—so they can face shaking with worship rather than dread.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Isaiah 51:16 speaks of God putting His words in His people's mouths. How does knowing your words of faith and Scripture carry weight in God's plan affect the way you speak?
2. The author sought the boldness the apostles prayed for in Acts 4:29. Where do you most need boldness to speak or stand for God right now?
3. Hebrews 12:28 says you are "receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable." When life feels shaken, how does this verse change your response?
4. Hebrews 12:28 links being unshakable to thankfulness and worship "with holy fear and awe." How might gratitude and worship steady you in uncertain times?
5. Isaiah 51:16 describes God covering His people "with the shadow of My hand." What does this picture of protection stir in you as you face challenges?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Isaiah 51:16 together. As a group, discuss what it means that God plants "the heavens" and lays foundations through the words He puts in His people's mouths.
2. The chapter draws on the apostles' prayer for boldness in Acts 4:29. As a group, discuss why boldness—rather than mere information—is emphasized for facing difficult times.
3. Hebrews 12:28 speaks of an "unshakable" Kingdom. Discuss the difference between circumstances being shaken and the Kingdom being shaken, and how that distinction brings peace.
4. The chapter repeatedly urges, "Don't get shook." Using Hebrews 12:28, discuss practical ways believers can remain steady when everything around them feels unstable.
5. How do Isaiah 51:16 and Hebrews 12:28 together encourage a posture of faith and worship rather than fear in seasons of upheaval?

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, thank You that I am part of a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. When the world around me trembles, help me not to be shaken but to stand firm in faith. Thank You for putting Your words in my mouth and covering me with the shadow of Your hand. Like the early believers, I ask for boldness to speak and live out Your Word. Search my heart where fear has taken the place that

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trust should hold, and teach me to respond to uncertainty with thankfulness and worship, in holy fear and awe. I surrender my anxieties to You and rest in Your unshakable Kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, when you feel shaken by news, conflict, or uncertainty, respond the way Hebrews 12:28 instructs—by giving thanks and worshiping God rather than giving in to fear. Choose one specific worry, speak a word of Scripture or faith over it as Isaiah 51:16 describes, and deliberately turn your attention to the unshakable Kingdom you belong to.

CHAPTER THREE

EVERYTHING LIVES WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS (RACHEL SHAFER)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is God's power to redeem lost time and restore what was lost—giving back more than was taken—as pictured in Ezekiel's ever-deepening river of life. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter presents a season of rapid redemption in which the river of God's presence brings life wherever it flows.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- John 7:38 (WYC and NLT)
- Isaiah 55:11 (referenced)
- Genesis 37–50 (referenced), with Genesis 50:20 (ESV) quoted
- Joel 2:25–26 (NKJV and NIV)
- 1 Samuel 1:7 (referenced) and 1 Samuel 1:27 (ESV)
- Daniel 2:20–21 (NIV)
- Ephesians 5:15–16 (NLT and KJV)
- Isaiah 46:13 (NASB)
- Psalm 119:60 (ESV)
- Matthew 4:19–20 (ESV)
- Ezekiel 47:1–12 (NLT), with verses 1 and 5 referenced
- Romans 8:28 (referenced)
- Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

The chapter opens with John 7:38, where believers become channels through which "rivers of living water" flow. Isaiah 55:11 grounds confidence that God watches over His Word to perform it. Several accounts illustrate redeemed time: Joseph (Genesis 37–50), who declared in Genesis 50:20 that what others meant for evil, God meant for good; and Hannah (1 Samuel 1:7, 1:27), who moved from grief to answered prayer and further blessing. Joel 2:25–26 promises restoration of "the years that the swarming locust has eaten," which the chapter presents as recovery of

past, present, and future with increase. Daniel 2:20–21 affirms that God "changes times and seasons," and Ephesians 5:15–16 calls believers to walk wisely, "redeeming the time." Isaiah 46:13, Psalm 119:60, and Matthew 4:19–20 illustrate God acting without delay and people responding swiftly. Ezekiel 47:1–12 supplies the central image: a river deepening from ankle-deep to "waters to swim in," bringing life, fresh water, fish, and fruit trees whose leaves are "for healing"—so that "everything lives where the river flows." Romans 8:28 assures that God works all things together for good, and Zechariah 4:6 reminds that this comes "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit." Together the cited verses teach that God redeems and restores beyond what was lost, and that His presence, like a rising river, brings life to dead places.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. John 7:38 says rivers of living water flow from the believer. In what ways might God want His life to flow *through* you to others?
2. Joel 2:25–26 promises to restore "the years that the swarming locust has eaten." What lost or wasted seasons are you asking God to redeem?
3. In Genesis 50:20, Joseph saw God's good purpose in what others meant for harm. Where might God be redeeming a painful chapter of your own story?
4. Ezekiel 47 describes a river that deepens from ankles to "waters to swim in." How far into God's presence are you willing to go, and what holds you at the shallow edge?
5. Zechariah 4:6 says restoration comes "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit." Where have you been striving in your own strength for something only God's Spirit can bring?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Ezekiel 47:1–12 together. As a group, discuss what the deepening stages of the river might represent, and why the water had to become "too deep to walk across."
2. Joel 2:25–26 promises restoration with increase. As a group, discuss the difference between simply getting something back and God restoring "more than what was lost."
3. Compare Joseph (Genesis 50:20) and Hannah (1 Samuel 1:27). What do their stories reveal about how God uses seasons of waiting and difficulty?
4. Ephesians 5:15–16 calls believers to "redeem the time." As a group, discuss what it looks like to be active participants in God's redemptive work rather than passive.
5. Ezekiel 47 says the river brought life and healing wherever it flowed. Discuss how a believer or church "flowing in the river" might change the atmosphere around them, based on John 7:38.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, thank You that You are the God of redemption, who wastes nothing and restores more than what was lost. I bring You the seasons I have grieved as wasted—the delays, the setbacks, the pain—and I ask You to redeem the years the locusts have eaten. Search my heart where disappointment has hardened into unbelief, and forgive me for striving in my own might rather than trusting Your Spirit. Like Ezekiel, I want to go deeper into Your river until I am carried by it. Let rivers of living water flow through me to bring life to dead places. I trust that You are working all things together for my good. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, name one specific situation you have considered "dead," wasted, or beyond restoration. Following the invitation of Ezekiel 47 and John 7:38, spend time in prayer "going deeper" into God's presence over that area, and declare Joel 2:25–26 over it—asking God to restore and bring life. Then take one practical step of faith toward that situation, trusting Him to work rather than relying on your own strength.

CHAPTER FOUR

SPRINGS IN THE DESERT (TIM SHEETS)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is Jesus' promise of Holy Spirit "rivers of living water" flowing continuously from believers, and God's power to bring springs and streams into desert and wasted seasons. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter presents a fresh outpouring of the Spirit that restores lost harvest and does something "brand-new."

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- John 7:37–39 (AMPC, TPT, and MSG), with John 7:38 (AMPC) quoted again
- Joel (referenced) and Joel 2:23–25 (NLT), with Joel 2:25 (KJV) quoted
- Acts 2 (referenced) and Acts 2:16 (KJV)
- Isaiah 43:15–19 (MSG)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

John 7:37–39 records Jesus' invitation on the last day of the Feast: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink," promising that "rivers of living water" would flow from within those who believe—which the passage identifies as the Holy Spirit, given after Jesus was glorified. The chapter stresses two things from this text: the flow is *continuous*, and it comes to those who are thirsty and come to Jesus. Acts 2 and Acts 2:16 connect this to Pentecost, where Peter declared the outpouring to be the fulfillment of what "was spoken by the prophet Joel." Joel 2:23–25 promises rain, overflowing harvest, and the restoration of "the years that the locust has eaten," which the chapter applies to the recovery of lost harvests, resources, health, and relationships. Isaiah 43:15–19 presents God as the one who makes "a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands," urging His people to forget former things because He is about to "do something brand-new." Together the cited verses teach that the Holy Spirit's living water flows from believers who come thirsty to Jesus, that God restores what was devoured, and that He brings fresh springs into the driest and most wasted places.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In John 7:37–38, Jesus invites the *thirsty* to come and drink. How thirsty are you for more of God's presence, and what might it look like to "come and drink"?
2. John 7:38 says rivers of living water flow "continuously." Where do you sense that flow in your life, and where does it feel blocked or dry?
3. Joel 2:25 promises restoration of "the years that the locust has eaten." What desert or wasted season are you asking God to turn into a place of springs?
4. Isaiah 43:18–19 says to stop dwelling on "old history" because God is doing "something brand-new." What former things might God be asking you to release so you can see the new thing?
5. Acts 2:16 shows Peter recognizing that God's promise had come to fulfillment. How does knowing God keeps His prophetic promises strengthen your faith for your own situation?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read John 7:37–39 together in the different translations provided. As a group, discuss what it means that the living water is meant to flow *out* of believers, not just into them.
2. Joel 2:23–25 and Acts 2:16 connect an ancient promise to its fulfillment at Pentecost. Discuss how these verses show God restoring what was lost through an outpouring of His Spirit.
3. Isaiah 43:15–19 describes God making rivers "in the badlands." As a group, discuss areas—personal or corporate—that feel like desert, and how this passage speaks hope into them.
4. The chapter emphasizes thirst as the condition for receiving. Using John 7:37, discuss what stirs or dulls spiritual thirst in a believer's life.
5. Isaiah 43:18 says, "Forget about what's happened." As a group, discuss the difference between honoring the past and being held back by it as you look for the "brand-new" thing God is doing.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, I come to You thirsty, just as Jesus invited. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and let rivers of living water flow continuously from within me. Search my heart for any dryness, and forgive me

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where I have stopped expecting You to move. Restore the years the locust has eaten, and bring Your springs into the desert places of my life. Help me to release the old history that keeps me looking backward, so I can see the brand-new thing You are doing. Make a road through my badlands, and let Your river carry me forward. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, identify one "desert" area where you have stopped expecting change. Following Isaiah 43:18–19, deliberately stop rehearsing the disappointment attached to it, and instead come to Jesus "thirsty" (John 7:37) in prayer over that area, asking Him to bring a fresh spring. Write down the "brand-new" thing you are believing God to do there, and return to it as you watch for His movement.

CHAPTER FIVE

RIDE THE RIVER (TIM SHEETS)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is the crystal river of life flowing from God's throne through His Church into all the earth, and the believer's call to "ride" that river by receiving the Spirit and declaring God's Word. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter presents the river of God as an unstoppable, life-giving flow that brings gladness, refreshing, and life wherever it goes.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Revelation 22:1 (RGT and NKJV)
- John 7:37–39 (TPT), with John 7:37 referenced
- Matthew 16:18–19 (referenced)
- John 14:26 (referenced)
- Psalm 46:4 (referenced)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Revelation 22:1 provides the anchoring image: "a pure river of water of life—clear as crystal—proceeding out of the throne of God, and of the Lamb." The chapter reads this river as flowing from God's throne through the New Jerusalem and, by extension, through His Church into the earth in a continuous, unbroken flow. John 7:37–39 reinforces that Jesus Himself prophesied about the Holy Spirit as living water given to believers—so, the chapter notes, prophesying is a legitimate practice modeled by Jesus. Matthew 16:18–19 is referenced to identify the "Ekklesia," the ruling and reigning New Testament church through which the author sees the river branching. John 14:26 is cited to affirm that the Holy Spirit is the Teacher who "will teach us all things" and guide believers, including into understanding of things to come. Psalm 46:4 supplies the assurance that "there is a river" whose streams "make glad the city of God"—applied here to the refreshing, resourcing, and re-living that the river brings to God's people. Together the cited verses teach that the river of life originates at God's throne, is received through the Holy Spirit, brings gladness and life to God's people, and is understood and stewarded under the Spirit's teaching.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Revelation 22:1 describes the river flowing "out of the throne of God." What does it mean to you that the source of this life-giving river is God Himself, not human effort?
2. Psalm 46:4 says there is a river whose streams "make glad the city of God." Where do you most need the gladness and refreshing of God's presence right now?
3. In John 7:37, Jesus calls the thirsty to come. What would "riding the river"—actively moving with God's Spirit—look like practically in your life?
4. John 14:26 says the Holy Spirit will "teach us all things." How well are you leaning on Him as your Teacher and Guide, especially in things you don't yet understand?
5. The chapter says the river is "unstoppable." What obstacles in your life feel immovable, and how does the image of an unstoppable river encourage your faith?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Revelation 22:1 together. As a group, discuss the significance of the river's source (God's throne) and its quality ("clear as crystal") for how we understand the Holy Spirit's work.
2. John 7:37–39 shows Jesus prophesying about the Spirit. As a group, discuss what the chapter means by describing the river as a "continuous flow" rather than a one-time event.
3. Psalm 46:4 speaks of a river that "makes glad." Discuss how the presence of God brings gladness even in difficult or "desert" seasons.
4. John 14:26 presents the Holy Spirit as Teacher. As a group, discuss how believers can grow in discerning and being guided by Him, especially with unusual or unfamiliar spiritual matters.
5. The chapter uses the image of many streams merging into one great river. As a group, discuss how different moves of God throughout history might be seen as flowing into one work of His Spirit.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, thank You for the pure river of life that flows from Your throne. I ask You to let that river flow through me and refresh the dry places of my life with Your gladness. Search my heart where I have resisted Your Spirit or leaned on my own understanding instead of trusting Him as my Teacher. Teach me, guide me, and help me to move with Your Spirit rather than against Him. I

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want to ride Your river wherever it carries me. Bring life to the barren places in me and through me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, set aside time to intentionally "drink deep" from God's presence, as the chapter urges—through unhurried prayer and time in His Word. Ask the Holy Spirit, your Teacher (John 14:26), to refresh and guide you, and then take one step of active obedience or faith He prompts, choosing to move *with* His river rather than staying at the shallow edge.

CHAPTER SIX

SPRING UP, O WELL (RACHEL SHAFER)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is the call to declare, by faith, that God's living water will "spring up" from dry places—reopening buried wells and releasing the Holy Spirit's supply within and through believers. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter presents faith-filled declaration and persistence as the means by which God's provision rises in wilderness seasons.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Numbers 21:16–18 (NIV and NLT), with Numbers 21 referenced
- Numbers 20:8 (NIV), with Numbers 20 referenced
- Genesis 16 (referenced, Hagar) and Genesis 21:19 (NIV)
- Genesis 26:17–25 (NLT), with Genesis 26 referenced
- John 4 (referenced), John 4:13–14 (NKJV), and John 4:14 (KJV)
- Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV)
- Psalm 87:7 (NKJV)
- Ezekiel 47:1–12 (referenced) and Ezekiel 47:9 (NIV)
- John 7:38 (NIV)
- Isaiah 51:16 (referenced)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Numbers 21:16–18 records Israel arriving at a waterless place where God promised, "I will give them water," and the people sang, "Spring up, O well!"—praising before the water appeared and then digging the well as active participants. The chapter draws from this that faith declares and works before it sees. Numbers 20:8 reinforces this: God told Moses to "speak to that rock" and water would flow. Several well accounts illustrate spiritual wells: Hagar (Genesis 16; 21:19), whose eyes God opened to see provision already present; and Isaac (Genesis 26:17–25), who reopened his father's stopped-up wells and persisted through opposition until reaching Rehoboth, "open space." Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:13–14; 4:14) reveal that His living water becomes "a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Jeremiah 2:13 calls

God "the fountain of living waters," and Psalm 87:7 declares "all my springs are in you." Ezekiel 47:1–12 and 47:9 show the temple river bringing life "where the river flows," and John 7:38 promises that rivers of living water flow from the believer. Isaiah 51:16 is cited for the authority of God's words planted by His people. Together the cited verses teach that God's living water is available beneath dry ground, and that faith-filled declaration, worship, and persistence release it—first within us as a well, then outward as a river.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In Numbers 21:17, Israel sang "Spring up, O well" *before* the water came. Where do you need to praise and declare God's promise before you see the answer?
2. Genesis 21:19 says God "opened her eyes, and she saw a well" that was already there. What provision might already be near you that you haven't yet seen?
3. Isaac reopened wells that had been stopped up (Genesis 26:18). Are there "wells" of prayer, worship, or intimacy with God in your life that need to be dug out again?
4. In John 4:14, Jesus offers water that becomes "a well of water springing up." How does knowing the Spirit is a continual spring within you—not a stagnant supply—change how you view dry seasons?
5. Jeremiah 2:13 warns against forsaking "the fountain of living waters." Where might you be drinking from sources that leave you thirsty instead of from God Himself?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Numbers 21:16–18 together. As a group, discuss the balance between God's promise ("I will give them water") and the people's participation (they "dug the well").
2. Compare Hagar (Genesis 21:19) and Isaac (Genesis 26:17–25). As a group, discuss what their well experiences teach about God's provision and about persevering through opposition.
3. John 4:13–14 contrasts water that leaves you thirsty with water that satisfies forever. Discuss what "springs" people commonly return to that never truly satisfy.
4. Ezekiel 47:9 says, "Where the river flows, everything will live." As a group, discuss what it would look like for that life to flow through you to your family, workplace, or community.
5. The chapter urges believers to "speak to the ground" of dry situations. Using Numbers 20:8 and John 7:38, discuss the role of faith-filled words in releasing what God has promised.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, You are the fountain of living waters, and all my springs are in You. I confess where I have drunk from sources that left me thirsty and where I have let discouragement stop up the wells of prayer and worship in my life. Open my eyes, like Hagar's, to see the provision You have already placed near me. Give me the persistence of Isaac to dig again until I reach the wide-open place. I declare over the dry ground of my life, "Spring up, O well." Let Your Spirit rise within me and flow out of me as a river of living water to others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, name one "dry ground" area—a relationship, a hope, a place God once moved that now feels stopped up. Following the pattern of Numbers 21:17, begin to praise God and declare His promise over that area *before* you see change, and take one practical step to "dig again" (returning to prayer, worship, or Scripture over it). Speak to that ground in faith, trusting God to bring the living water to the surface.

CHAPTER SEVEN

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER (RACHEL SHAFER)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is that Jesus is the Living Water and Light foreshadowed by the Feast of Tabernacles, and that worship and praise release the Holy Spirit's river to flow through believers, bringing breakthrough, healing, and life. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter connects the feast's ceremonies to Christ and to the believer's call to become a "house of outpouring."

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- John 7:37–39 (NIV and RSV)
- Isaiah 12:3 (NIV), Isaiah 12:2–3 (KJV), and Isaiah 44:3–4 (KJV)
- Psalms 113–118 (referenced), with Psalm 113:1 (KJV) and Psalm 118 quoted
- Exodus 17 and Numbers 20 (referenced)
- John 8:12 (KJV), John 9:5 (KJV), and John 7–9 (referenced)
- Joel 2:28–29 (referenced)
- Philippians 2:17 (NIV)
- Psalm 46:4 (NIV), Psalm 22:3 (referenced), and Psalm 149:6 (referenced)
- 2 Chronicles 20 (referenced) and 2 Chronicles 20:21 (NIV)
- Acts 16 (referenced), Job 35:10, Matthew 26:30 (NLT), and Psalm 42:8 (ESV)
- Isaiah 30:29–32 (NIV)
- Psalm 31 (referenced), Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV), and Isaiah 61:3 (NIV)
- Ezekiel 1:27 (NLT) and Ezekiel 8:2 (NLT); Ezekiel 47 (referenced)
- 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

John 7:37–39 stands at the center: at the Feast of Tabernacles, as water from the Pool of Siloam was poured out, Jesus cried out that rivers of living water would flow from those who believe—which John identifies as the Holy Spirit. The chapter shows the feast's imagery fulfilled in Christ: the water ceremony (recalling Exodus 17 and Numbers 20, and the promises of Isaiah 12:2–3 and 44:3–4) pointed to Him as Living Water, and the Ceremony of Light framed His

declarations in John 8:12 and 9:5, "I am the light of the world," before He healed a blind man. Joel 2:28–29 is referenced as fulfilled at Pentecost, and Philippians 2:17 pictures the believer "poured out" in surrender. The chapter then ties worship to breakthrough: Psalm 46:4 names the river that makes glad God's city; Psalm 22:3 and Psalm 149:6 show God enthroned on praise and praise as warfare; 2 Chronicles 20:21, Acts 16, Job 35:10, Matthew 26:30, Psalm 42:8, and Isaiah 30:29–32 illustrate worship preceding victory and "songs in the night." Zephaniah 3:17 assures that God sings over His people, Isaiah 61:3 gives "a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair," and Ezekiel 1:27 and 8:2 describe God's amber glory. 1 Corinthians 2:9 points to what God has prepared. Together the cited verses teach that Jesus is the source of living water, and that worship releases the Spirit's river to bring healing and breakthrough.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In John 7:37–38, Jesus invites the thirsty to come and drink. What "feast" or longing in your own life is Jesus offering to satisfy as your Living Water?
2. 2 Chronicles 20:21 shows Judah sending singers before soldiers. Where might your breakthrough be waiting "on your song" rather than on your strength?
3. Zephaniah 3:17 says God "will rejoice over you with singing." How does it affect you to picture God singing over you in your hardest moments?
4. Isaiah 61:3 describes "a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." What would it look like to intentionally "put on" praise in a discouraging season?
5. Job 35:10 and Psalm 42:8 speak of "songs in the night." What has God taught you—or what might He want to teach you—about worshiping in the dark before you see the answer?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read John 7:37–39 together. As a group, discuss how the Feast of Tabernacles ceremonies help you understand what Jesus was claiming about Himself.
2. John 8:12 and 9:5 record Jesus declaring, "I am the light of the world," just before healing a blind man. Discuss how His words and His actions reinforced one another.
3. Look at the worship-then-breakthrough pattern in 2 Chronicles 20:21 and Acts 16. As a group, discuss why praise so often precedes God's intervention.
4. Psalm 22:3 and Psalm 149:6 present worship as both intimacy and authority. As a group, discuss how you have experienced praise shifting an atmosphere.
5. The chapter calls each believer to become "a house of outpouring." Using John 7:38 and Psalm 46:4, discuss how the river God pours into you is meant to flow out to others.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, thank You that Jesus is the Living Water who satisfies every thirst and the Light that pierces every darkness. I come to You thirsty, asking You to fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Search my heart where despair has replaced praise, and clothe me instead with the garment of praise. Teach me to worship in the night, before I see the answer, trusting that You go to battle when I praise. Thank You that You rejoice over me with singing. Let Your river flow through me so that healing and life reach everyone around me. Make me a house of outpouring. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, choose one difficult situation and respond to it the way the chapter models: instead of rehearsing fear, lift genuine praise to God over it—perhaps a "song in the night" (Psalm 42:8). Put on the "garment of praise" (Isaiah 61:3) by worshiping before you see change, and pay attention to how it shifts your heart and the atmosphere around you.

CHAPTER EIGHT

FLYING SCROLLS — BREAKTHROUGH (TIM SHEETS)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is breakthrough—Jesus as the "Breaker" who goes before His people to shatter oppression, and the Ekklesia's role in reading and decreeing Heaven's "scrolls" to release His will on earth. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter presents spiritual warfare, prayer, and prophetic decree as means through which God brings supernatural breakthrough and outpouring.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Micah 2:13 (TPT)
- Ephesians 6:10–12 (referenced)
- Romans 8:26 (referenced)
- 1 Chronicles 12:32 (referenced)
- 1 Corinthians 15:46 (ESV)
- Acts 16:26 (referenced)
- Revelation 5:8 (referenced)
- Joel 2:10 (ESV) and Joel 2:28–29 (ESV), with Joel 2 referenced
- Acts 2:1–4 (ESV) and Acts 2:16–18 (referenced)
- Zechariah 5:1
- Jeremiah 36 (referenced)
- Luke 4:17–20 (referenced)
- Revelation 5:1–5 (referenced)
- Ezekiel 2 (referenced)
- Revelation 10:8–11 (referenced)
- Nehemiah 8 (referenced)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Micah 2:13 anchors the chapter with the image of "the Barrier-Breaker" who leads His people out into freedom, with the King and the Lord going before them—applied to Jesus as "Messiah the Breaker." The author's warfare account draws on Ephesians 6:10–12, which describes the

believer's struggle against principalities and powers and the armor of God, and Romans 8:26, where the Holy Spirit helps believers pray when they do not know how. 1 Chronicles 12:32 (the sons of Issachar who "discerned their times") and 1 Corinthians 15:46 ("not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual") frame how the author interprets a natural sign spiritually. Acts 16:26 recalls the earthquake that freed Paul and Silas after their praise, and Revelation 5:8 pictures the prayer bowls of Heaven. Joel 2:10, 2:28–29, and Acts 2:1–4, 2:16–18 tie shaking and outpouring together: the earth quaking and the Spirit poured out "on all flesh" as fulfilled at Pentecost. The scroll imagery draws on Zechariah 5:1 (the flying scroll), Jeremiah 36 (Jeremiah's scroll), Luke 4:17–20 (Jesus reading Isaiah's scroll), Revelation 5:1–5 and 10:8–11 (the sealed scroll and the scroll John eats), Ezekiel 2 (judgment and prophecy), and Nehemiah 8 (public reading of the law and covenant renewal). Together the cited verses teach that God breaks through oppression, that the Spirit empowers prayer and outpouring often accompanied by signs, and that God's revealed word—His "scrolls"—is meant to be received and declared by His people.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Micah 2:13 calls Jesus the one who breaks open the way and goes before His people. What barrier in your life do you most need the "Breaker" to go before you and open?
2. Romans 8:26 says the Holy Spirit helps us pray when we don't know how. How does this encourage you in situations where you feel you don't have the words?
3. Ephesians 6:10–12 describes a real spiritual battle. Where in your life have you sensed opposition that these verses help you understand and stand against?
4. Acts 16:26 shows breakthrough coming after Paul and Silas praised in prison. What "midnight" situation are you facing where worship might precede your breakthrough?
5. The chapter emphasizes reading and declaring God's "scrolls"—His revealed word. How consistently are you letting God's Word shape what you speak and pray over your circumstances?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Micah 2:13 together. As a group, discuss what it means that the King goes *before* His people to break open the way, and how that shapes how you face obstacles.
2. Ephesians 6:10–12 and Romans 8:26 speak of spiritual warfare and Spirit-empowered prayer. As a group, discuss the relationship between prayer and standing firm in difficult seasons.
3. Look at Acts 2:1–4 and 2:16–18 alongside Joel 2:28–29. Discuss how the outpouring at Pentecost fulfilled what Joel prophesied, and what it means for believers today.

4. The chapter surveys the scroll imagery in Scripture (Zechariah 5:1; Luke 4:17–20; Revelation 5:1–5; Nehemiah 8). As a group, discuss how God's written and spoken Word carries His authority.
5. 1 Chronicles 12:32 praises those who "discerned their times." As a group, discuss how believers can wisely discern what God is doing without reading meaning into every event.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father, thank You that Jesus is the Breaker who goes before me to open every barrier. I bring You the areas of oppression, bondage, and long-standing difficulty in my life, and I trust You to break through. Where I don't know how to pray, let Your Holy Spirit pray through me. Teach me to stand firm in the armor You have given, resisting the enemy in Jesus' name rather than in my own strength. Help me to fill my mouth with Your Word and to declare what You have spoken. I say yes to what Heaven declares, and I receive my breakthrough. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, identify one long-standing barrier you have grown discouraged about. Following Micah 2:13, begin each day by acknowledging Jesus as the Breaker who goes before you, and—like Paul and Silas in Acts 16:26—choose worship over discouragement in that area. Find one specific promise from God's Word ("scroll") that applies, write it down, and declare it over the situation daily.

CHAPTER NINE

RIVERS OF LIGHT (TIM SHEETS)

CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The central theme is that God brings light, hope, and harvest out of dark and tragic times—pouring down good gifts "like rivers of light" and turning what was meant for evil toward good. Using only the Scripture cited, the chapter reflects on the death of Charlie Kirk and frames it through the biblical hope that light overcomes darkness and that a seed which dies produces a great harvest.

SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- James 1:17 (MSG)
- Hosea 2:15 (referenced)
- Romans 8:28 (ESV)
- Psalm 18:11 (referenced)
- Genesis 1:1–3 (paraphrased/referenced)
- Isaiah 9:2 (ESV)
- John 1:5 (TPT)
- Jeremiah 1:10 (referenced)
- John 12:24 (AMP)

BIBLICAL INSIGHT

James 1:17 anchors the chapter: every good and beneficial gift comes down from "the Father of Light," described as "rivers of light cascading down"—applied to the gifts, talents, and callings God pours out on His people, even in despair. Hosea 2:15 is referenced through the Valley of Achor, the "Valley of Trouble" that God promised to make "a door of hope," used as a picture of trouble turned to hope. Romans 8:28 states that God works "all things together for good" for those who love Him, the chapter's central assurance amid tragedy. Psalm 18:11 and the paraphrase of Genesis 1:1–3 depict God speaking light and order out of darkness, as He did at creation. Isaiah 9:2 declares that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," and John 1:5 affirms that the Light shines in darkness and cannot be overcome by it. Jeremiah 1:10 is referenced for the power of prophetic words to uproot and to build. John 12:24 supplies the culminating image: unless a grain of wheat "falls into the earth and dies," it remains alone,

but if it dies it "produces much grain and yields a harvest." Together the cited verses teach that God is the source of every good gift, that He brings light out of darkness and good out of tragedy, and that death and loss, in God's hands, can become the seed of a greater harvest.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. James 1:17 says every good gift comes from "the Father of Light." What gifts or callings has God poured into your life that you could offer back to Him, even in a hard season?
2. Romans 8:28 promises God works "all things together for good" for those who love Him. How have you seen—or how do you long to see—God bring good out of something painful?
3. Isaiah 9:2 and John 1:5 speak of light shining in and overcoming darkness. Where do you most need to trust that God's light will not be overcome by the darkness around you?
4. John 12:24 says a seed must die to produce a harvest. What might God be asking you to surrender or lay down so that greater fruit can come?
5. Hosea 2:15 pictures a "Valley of Trouble" becoming "a door of hope." Is there a valley in your life that you are asking God to turn into a doorway of hope?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read James 1:17 together. As a group, discuss what it means that God is "the Father of Light" in whom there is "no variation or shadow of turning," especially during unstable times.
2. Romans 8:28 is often quoted in the middle of hardship. As a group, discuss the difference between saying all things *are* good and trusting that God *works* all things together for good.
3. Isaiah 9:2 and John 1:5 both address light and darkness. As a group, discuss how the certainty that light overcomes darkness shapes the way believers respond to tragedy or evil.
4. John 12:24 uses the image of a dying seed producing a harvest. As a group, discuss examples—from Scripture or life—where loss became the seedbed of something greater.
5. Genesis 1:1–3 shows God speaking light out of darkness at creation. As a group, discuss how God's creative power over darkness gives hope for the "dark" places in your own circumstances.

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Prayer

Father of Light, thank You that every good and perfect gift comes down from You, and that Your light shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome. In times of grief, loss, and confusion, help me to trust that You work all things together for good for those who love You. Search my heart where despair or fear has clouded my hope, and remind me that You spoke light out of darkness in the beginning and can do so again. Teach me, like a seed falling into the ground, to surrender what must die so that a harvest can come. Pour Your rivers of light over me and use even hard times for Your redemptive purposes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activation Step

This week, identify one "dark" or painful situation you have struggled to see any good in. Following Romans 8:28 and John 12:24, spend time asking God to show you how He might bring light and harvest out of it, and write down one way you can respond with hope and faith rather than despair—whether through prayer, a step of surrender, or an act of service that lets God's light flow through you.

This chapter deals with grief and the violent death of a real person, which can be heavy to sit with. If it stirs difficult emotions for you, please be gentle with yourself and consider reaching out to a trusted person; I'm glad to help you find support resources if that would be helpful.

