

**Word notes Sunday 14/3/10 Tony Hodge**  
**Jesus the source of Living Water**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 7:37,38

Jesus spoke these words to people gathered for the feast of Tabernacles which celebrated Israel's life with God under the Law in the desert. On the last and greatest day of the feast when it was traditional to fetch a bowl of water from the pool of Siloam and pour it out with great joyous celebration onto the altar.

Jesus did not go up to Jerusalem publicly because his "time had not yet come" (Jn 7:6) yet half-way through the feast he starts to teach openly in the temple courts (v14). On the last day of the feast he gets up and speaks loudly this invitation in vv 37 & 38.

In Zechariah 14 (esp. vv 9, 16, 17 & 19) the prophet looks forward to Messianic times when all nations shall come to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast.

In the context of the last day of the feast, the pouring out of water, the presence of Jesus the Christ inviting all to come and partake of living water and not a bowl of water fetched from a pool demonstrates the fulfilment of the promises in Old Testament scripture in Jesus himself. Now is the time that all nations may come and celebrate Immanuel, not the limited joy of dwelling with God under the Law but the abundant joy of having God dwell in us by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is both the Bread of Life (Jn 6) – food to our souls, and the water of life – refreshment and joy in our spirit, springs of living water rising up from within. Come and receive the gift he offers.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Why does Jesus go up to Jerusalem secretly, what has been happening in chapters 6 and 7 that make sense of his actions?

Three times in chapter 7 Jesus says his "time has not yet come", what time is this?

Jesus invites us to come to him and drink? How does he say we can do this? How does Isaiah 12:3 support your answer?

The pouring out the water onto the altar on this last day of the feast was a joyous occasion; Isaiah says it is with joy that we draw water from the well of salvation. What do you do when through circumstances or the actions of others you are robbed of your joy?

Ask people to share any circumstances they are currently in where joy is missing. Pray together that they will reach out to Jesus and ask him to pour water into the situation. In particular what is the Lord saying to them that they might need to do?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

We're looking forward to the big celebration of the Christian year – Easter. Who can the cell invite to the guest meeting?