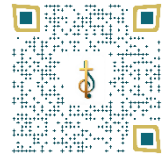


Make Me A River Study Guide

© 2025 Christie Smith for Cross Road Christian Church
and Seventeen : Eleven Young Women's Studies

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Make Me A River by Casting Crowns

*In the morning when I rise
Jesus be my eyes
Before the day rushes in
With You is where I begin*

To let Jesus be our eyes, we have to view things the way He views them. This includes everything from our own choices, our personal circumstances, work ethic, other people, right from wrong. Everything. Not an easy task! Read and highlight the following scriptures and sum up in a few words what our “Jesus view” should be.

Working: Colossians 3:17 and 23, Proverbs 14:23.

Following your heart: Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 28:26

Having no filter (words): Ephesians 5:4, James 1:26 and Matthew 12:36

The “Beatitudes” in Matthew 5:3-11 are appropriately named, because they literally tell us how our attitude should be. Read and highlight them in your Bible.

Read, highlight and memorize the Fruit of the Spirit outlined in Galatians 5:22.

Is it really important to start the day with the Lord before everything else? Why or why not?
Discuss these scriptures (and highlight them)

Psalm 5:3

Mark 1:35

Colossians 3:2

Just as we get up and get dressed physically each day, we are told in Colossians 3:12 how to get dressed spiritually, echoing the attributes of the spiritual fruit.

*As You sing over me with Your love
I will sing praise for all You have done*

Does God actually “sing over us”? Read and highlight Zephaniah 3:17. Imagine a loving parent who sings over his or her child... celebrating birthdays and wins, calming fears, and easing tears, promoting rest. God wants us to rest in Him, because He loves us so deeply. He rejoices with us in the good times, quiets us in the chaotic times, and offers us peace and rest.

*Fill my heart as I hunger for You
Flood my mind with Your wisdom
Your mercy Your truth*

Have you ever heard the term “Hungry heart?” We all have one. We all have this natural desire to be important and have value. We try to fill this void inside of us with all sorts of things. We spend our lives searching for ways to satisfy the hunger... Maybe with being the top of our class at school, or getting the lead in a play. Maybe winning the trophy at a track meet, or being recognized for our artistic achievements. Some people are driven to find fulfillment in careers. Others may try to erase the disappointment of unfulfillment with food, drugs, or other destructive behaviors.

Read and highlight Psalm 107:9, and also Matthew 5:6. And John 6:35. What does scripture say about the hungry heart?

God recognizes this hunger. He created us to long for fulfillment, but thing that can perfectly satisfy that longing is Him. When we turn that hunger to the one who fulfills, Psalm 51:6 says that even before we were born, when we were still in the womb, He desired truth, and in our innermost being, He taught us wisdom.

What is truth? Read and highlight John 14:6 for the answer and write it below.

Veres 2:

*Guide every step I take
Lord let me not wander away.*

Read and highlight Psalm 119:133. This is a really good one to memorize. Write it in the space below.

*Father fill every word I speak
With the same grace that you've given me.
Touch the world with my hands,
they are Yours,
Let my love show the lost
that You are the Lord.*

Colossians 4:6 tells us to let our speech always be full of grace and seasoned with salt. 1 Peter 4:10 says that we are to use our gifts to serve one another. Acts 20:35 gets a little deeper, saying that we must help the weak and remember that Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. But why is that?

Just as we are created with a hungry heart that longs for a closeness with our creator, so is everyone else. And God has given us a mission. The "Great Commission". "Co" because we are partnered with Him to complete the "mission" of teaching others about Jesus. Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16 record this directive. I like how in Mark it doesn't just say to take the message to other people, but to "go into the world and preach the gospel *to every creature*". Jesus said that everyone who believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe would be condemned.

This is a heavy responsibility. If you've ever wondered what the purpose of life is, there it is! The last thing that Jesus said to His disciples between His resurrection and His ascension into heaven was to go out and tell the whole world about Him so that they can know the grace that they (and we) have been given.

Chorus:

*Father make me a river
Come living water flow through me
You are the one that I thirst for
So come living water flow through me*

There are two places in scripture where Jesus mentions "living water". In John 4:10-13, where He asks the Samaritan woman at the well for a drink, she asks why He would ask her, a Samaritan, for water. He responds telling her that if she knew the gift of God and who was asking, He would have given her living water.

What is this "living water" He is referring to? If you thought Jesus IS the living water, you're in good company.

The second instance happens at a feast, and Jesus is calling on the people to believe in Him. Read and highlight John 7:37-39. What does He say will happen to those who find their fulfillment in Him? (v. 38)

And in v. 39, who does Jesus say He is referring to?

Why was this living water not available right then? What must happen before they could receive this living water?

*Let the river flow
Let the river flow
Father make me a river
Come living water flow through me*

When you pray, ask Jesus to let the Holy Spirit flow through you, reaching others who may not know Him. Ask Him to give you the courage to reach out to others and show them Him.

Challenge: This week as you go about your daily life, offer a “hey... you matter” card to at least one person that seems to be hurting. Bonus points if you write a little note on the inside of the card.