



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for March 29, 2009
Released on Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

"God Gives New Healing"

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 47:1-12

Memory Verse: "Every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live:...for they shall be healed" (Ezekiel 47:9).

Ezekiel 47:1-12

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under, from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the outer gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

TEACHER'S NOTES

God is a wonderful agent of change. He changes people through imparting His own life. And that is the truth the life-giving message of Ezekiel 47 brings our students.

Ezekiel's river brought life to barren places that had been unable to produce anything worthwhile. It enabled growth and usefulness and beauty. It made things "good," as God in Genesis 1 meant them to be.

When God's life is received through faith in Christ, we can expect good changes too. This is a happy lesson.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God not only plans to make the world what it should be someday, but He also brings new life and good changes to each person who trusts Jesus today.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Many things happen that do not please God, but He plans to make everything right.
2. God gives believers life and makes good changes that result in usefulness and joy.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, take a flannelgraph figure or picture of Ezekiel.

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of a city gate, the temple, and a tree-lined river.

For Telling How to Live, you will need the picture of the river and one of a cross.

For Helping to Remember, each child will need a sheet of white construction paper and crayons.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Remember Ezekiel? (Show Ezekiel.) He was the man who dreamed about the dry bones that God turned into living people again. What did such a strange dream mean?

We know that not all dreams mean anything, but one day God gave Ezekiel another dream that meant something too. It was about something that will happen when Jesus comes back to earth to be King.

TELLING THE LESSON

Because Ezekiel had this dream sent to him from God, we say he had a vision.

In Ezekiel's vision the Lord took him back where God's people used to live. (Show city gate.) And there at the gate of the city was a man holding a very long measuring stick.

The man said, "Come look at all the things I am going to show you. Then tell God's people what you have seen."

Ezekiel followed him. First, they went to the beautiful new temple that would be where the people would worship. (Show temple.)

The man measured how long things were. He measured how high other things were. Then he led Ezekiel back to the front door. This time Ezekiel saw water coming from under the temple door.

They began to follow the water. They followed it across the yard. It went out at the big gate. They followed it. Now it was deeper and wider. Soon it was a big river. (Show river.)

Ezekiel and the man with the measuring stick started to wade across. First, the water was up to their ankles.

Then it came up to their knees. Before long it was so deep that they could not wade across if they wanted to.

As they went back, Ezekiel looked at all the trees growing on both sides of the river. You know that tree roots like water. The good river water was making the trees grow.

The man said, "This water will go down into the desert and then into the sea. It will heal the sea water."

The man was talking about a kind of lake that was in that place. Its water was saltier than ocean water. Fish could not even live in it.

The man said that someday fresh water from the river would fill up that salty lake. When the bad water would be gone, many kinds of fish would live in it. Fishermen would line up along the shore and catch as many fish as they wanted to. Then the lake would be useful.

The fresh river water would make that wonderful change from bad to good because, the man said, "Wherever the river comes, everything will live." The river would be a life giver. What a wonderful river!

Do you happen to remember where that life-giving river came from? (Show temple.) Yes, it came from the temple, the special place where God lived among His people.

God is like that river. He gives life. He changes people. He takes wrongness away. He heals what is not right. He makes lives beautiful and good and useful. What a wonderful God!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Ezekiel had good news to tell. Someday a wonderful river would make things live wherever it went. (Show river.) And if you belong to Jesus, *you* have good news to tell. God wants to give people everlasting life today. He takes away their wrongness and changes them so that their lives are right and good and useful. He does this when they believe that He sent Jesus to die for them. (Show cross.) And that is good news.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children draw a wide river from the lower left-hand corner of their papers to the upper right corner. They should fill it: with fish, draw trees on each bank, and title their drawings "God Gives Everlasting Life."

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"Every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: . . . for they shall be healed" (Ezekiel 47:9).

In a kind of dream, God showed Ezekiel a wonderful river. Every place this special river went, its good water made things live. It made bad, salty water good so that fish could live in it. It makes things the way God always meant them to be.

God will do that with His whole world someday. Right now He is doing it with people, one at a time. When dads and moms and boys and girls ask Jesus to take away their sins, He gives them His wonderful life. His life changes them, and then they are able to do the good things He always meant people to do.

"God Gives New Healing" Crossword Puzzle (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

T H E T M B E Y Y H G U K N D
J L P N S M L R Q E R Y K A L
C G A M R U A Z O A A F W N O
J I E E Z U E R H L P Z V M H
E S V U T F E G R E A T N U S
B I N C A K I H L D P U V H E
R M N I U E H S R A T L A R R
Y A S X O E M A H G P H S X H
S Y T H Y L F H Q E C K E O T
H D M E A S U R E D R J E M D
U D I L W S W Q U S D S R U L
X U V A P F W X E I Y J T M J
X T T Z H I W A L E T C L D D
O E S V T S M T P E L J G W V
R C Q H B H G A S B N S J C P

ALTAR

FRUIT

LOINS

SANCTUARY

TREES

FISH

GREAT

MEASURED

SEA

WATER

FISHERS

HEALED

RIVER

THRESHOLD

14 of 14 words were placed into the puzzle.

"God Gives New Healing" Crossword Puzzle Solution (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

+ + + + + + + Y H + + + + D
+ + + + + + + R + E + + + + L
+ + + + R + A + + A + + + + O
+ + + E + U + + + L + + + + H
+ S V + T F + G R E A T + + S
+ I N C + + I + + D + + + + E
R + N I + + + S R A T L A + R
+ A + + O + + + H + + + S + H
S + + + + L F + + E + + E + T
+ + M E A S U R E D R + E + +
+ + + + W + + + U S + S R + +
+ + + A + F + + E I + + T + +
+ + T + + I + A + + T + + + +
+ E + + + S + + + + + + + + +
R + + + + H + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

- ALTAR (13, 7, W)
- FISH (6, 12, S)
- FISHERS (6, 5, SE)
- FRUIT (7, 9, SE)
- GREAT (8, 5, E)
- HEALED (10, 1, S)
- LOINS (6, 9, NW)
- MEASURED (3, 10, E)
- RIVER (1, 7, NE)
- SANCTUARY (1, 9, NE)
- SEA (10, 11, SW)
- THRESHOLD (15, 9, N)
- TREES (13, 12, N)
- WATER (5, 11, SW)

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