



# FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

**Week of February 20, 2022: John 7:37-52**

## Memory Verse

**John 7:38** *"Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from inside them..."* (NIRV)

## The Lord's Prayer

(Have your kids repeat after you!)

Dear God,  
 Our Mommy, Daddy & Parent  
 Up in heaven  
 You are good  
 Come here with us  
 And do what you want to do  
 Just like you do in heaven  
 Thank you for giving me food  
 to eat  
 Clothes to wear  
 And a warm blanket at night  
 Thank you for loving me always  
 Even when I make bad choices  
 I am sorry  
 Help me to love my friends  
 and family  
 Even when they make bad  
 choices  
 Keep me safe  
 You are good  
 So very good  
 Amen.

*(We put this in again to encourage you to consider making this a family ritual)*

## The Story: Rivers of Living Water

(New International Reader's Version)

<sup>37</sup>It was the last and most important day of the feast. Jesus stood up and spoke in a loud voice. He said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from inside them." <sup>39</sup>When he said this, he meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit later. Up to that time, the Spirit had not been given. This was because Jesus had not yet received glory.

<sup>40</sup>The people heard his words. Some of them said, "This man must be the Prophet we've been expecting."

<sup>41</sup>Others said, "He is the Messiah."



Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup>Doesn't Scripture say that the Messiah will come from the family line of David? Doesn't it say that he will come from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" <sup>43</sup>So the people did not agree about who Jesus

## Activity

**Stand Up!** Jesus *stood up* when he preached in the temple. Typically, teachers would sit while students would stand. By standing, Jesus drew attention to the importance of what he was about to say. Find a book and have each person read part of the story. Each person must stand when they read. Or you could make up a story. Each person in the family continues to add to the story but when they speak, they must be standing. You could also try reading while sitting and then while standing and talk about how it feels different. Our posture matters!

**Living Water:** Research experiments using water, such as water on a string ([fun-science.org.uk](http://fun-science.org.uk))

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**Do you need a new Children's Bible?** The link below is a great guide on choosing one:  
[www.buildfaith.org/choosing-a-childrens-bible-2](http://www.buildfaith.org/choosing-a-childrens-bible-2)

was. <sup>44</sup> Some wanted to arrest him. But no one laid a hand on him.

### The Jewish Leaders Do Not Believe

<sup>45</sup> Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees. They asked the guards, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

<sup>46</sup> "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.

<sup>47</sup> "You mean he has fooled you also?" the Pharisees asked. <sup>48</sup> "Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> No! But this mob knows nothing about the law. There is a curse on them."

<sup>50</sup> Then Nicodemus, a Pharisee, spoke. He was the one who had gone to Jesus earlier. He asked, <sup>51</sup> "Does our law find a man guilty without hearing him first? Doesn't it want to find out what he is doing?"

<sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Look into it. You will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

**Discussion:** This passage contains 2 parts: verses 37-39 tell us of Jesus standing in the temple and proclaiming, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink", whereas verses 40-52 tell us that there were differing opinions of Jesus among the people. Some say he is good; others bad. Some thought Jesus was the Prophet or the Messiah. Others were on the fence and were willing to give Jesus a chance. And others were hostile. They were ready to have Jesus arrested right then and there.

**A Meal Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for giving us food and water for our bodies. Thank you for giving us Jesus to nourish our souls. Amen.

