



CAMPUS
MINISTRY
TODAY

HOW TO SHARE "THE WELL"

"The Basics" Series

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Adopted from // "The Well Illustration" that was developed by The Navigators

Back in the mid 1990's, The Navigators came up with a creative tool to try to help college students become more spiritually thirsty. The tool would have a student read a couple of verses that contrasted physical water and spiritual water, and through a series of questions and graphics, show them the emptiness of looking to anything but Jesus for satisfaction in life. While The Bridge or Four Laws are more "reaping" tools, bringing a student to a salvation decision, The Well is more of a "sowing" presentation and discussion, hopefully making them interested in discovering more. We have modified a lot of the tool's original content, but the essential concepts are still there. So try it. See how the Lord uses it. Your love, your prayers, your questions, your sharing of the powerful Word of God can change lives—for eternity!

1. Have them read this statement:

"People are thirsty. Like a man in a desert, we will do whatever it takes to quench that thirst. We will follow, give ourselves to, trust in whatever we believe will satisfy us and will give us life."

Would you agree with that?

In life, what do people believe are their greatest needs to be met and filled?

What are some words you would use to describe what life is about? Examples: happiness, security, satisfaction, identity, love, respect, purpose, etc.

2. Draw 6–7 boxes across the page

What are some of the things people pour themselves into to quench their thirst, or to try to find the life that we just talked about? i.e. relationships, money, partying, career, sex, family, religion, politics, etc.

Write each of their answers on one of the boxes. Note: It is a good idea to come into the illustration with some pre-set answers you would like to present in case they don't say it.

Be sure to share one from your own life. i.e. You trying to find life through drinking, relationships/sex, or academics. It is important that you identify with your audience. This is an awesome opportunity to be genuine with them, sharing something you have lived for in life that left you empty. Vulnerability is very important to connect with them and help them open up.

Allow this to be a discussion.

Point out that not all these things are necessarily bad or immoral in and of themselves, but that they were never meant to be our ultimate source of life.

Transition: "The Bible actually talks about this."

3. Have them read Jeremiah 2:13 out loud

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Just like The Bridge , underline these words as you go, defining and discussing them:

Two sins: Underline Two sins and ask, "What are the two sins the people have committed against God? (A. forsaken God and dug their own cisterns.)

Forsaken: Underline Forsaken and ask, "What does forsaken mean?" (A. abandon, leave, etc.)

Cisterns : Underline Cisterns and ask, "Have you ever heard of a cistern?" "Do you know what it is?" (A. a huge container that holds water, a big pot.) "How are the cisterns described?"

Broken: Underline Broken and ask, “What happens to the water in a broken pot?”

(A. water leaks out, useless.)

Then draw a cracks through each of the ‘wells’ (the boxes above). Go back to the boxes and tell them “these are cisterns.” They are things we pour our life into, but they leak. Remind them that there is nothing wrong with (most) of these things by themselves but they were never meant to give us life. Ask, “Which one or two of these do you feel you may be looking to right now to find life in?”

Be real with them and share which ones you used to or are prone to find life in.

Ask, “What will happen to your life if you continue to try to find it in these two things?” (A. it will become dry and empty)

Ask, “How is God described in this passage?”

Spring: Underline Spring and ask, “What is the difference between a spring and a cistern?”

(A. Produce fresh, clean and healthy water.)

Transition: Jesus explains what it means for Him to be the “spring of living water.”

4. Have them read John 4:13-14 out loud

Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst, but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

In this passage Jesus is talking to a woman who is working hard to draw water from a well. Ask your friend, “How would you describe the kind of water Jesus was offering?” (A. It is He who gives life, He who quenches thirst.)

Draw another box now, and label it “Jesus”. Then draw a small spring of living water from it to each of the other boxes. Share how Jesus can bring life to your friend and a proper God-centered perspective/motive to each of the other wells as it flows into them.

This is a great place to share your testimony, go back over [The Bridge](#) or [Four Laws](#) with them, or find out how interested they are in going further in processing the gospel.

5. Recruit them to dig deeper with you

Ask them the following questions:

“Take a moment and try to get in touch with where you are right now. On a scale from 1-5 how thirsty would you say you are spiritually?”

“Where would you like to be?”

“What if we were to start exploring some together? We could start to read the book of John together (Jesus’ best friend) and discover who Jesus is, and what kind of life He wants to give us. I know we’re both busy, but is that something you would like to make time for? Are you sure?”

Leave them with an assignment, starting reading John together, and/or invite them to a Bible study.