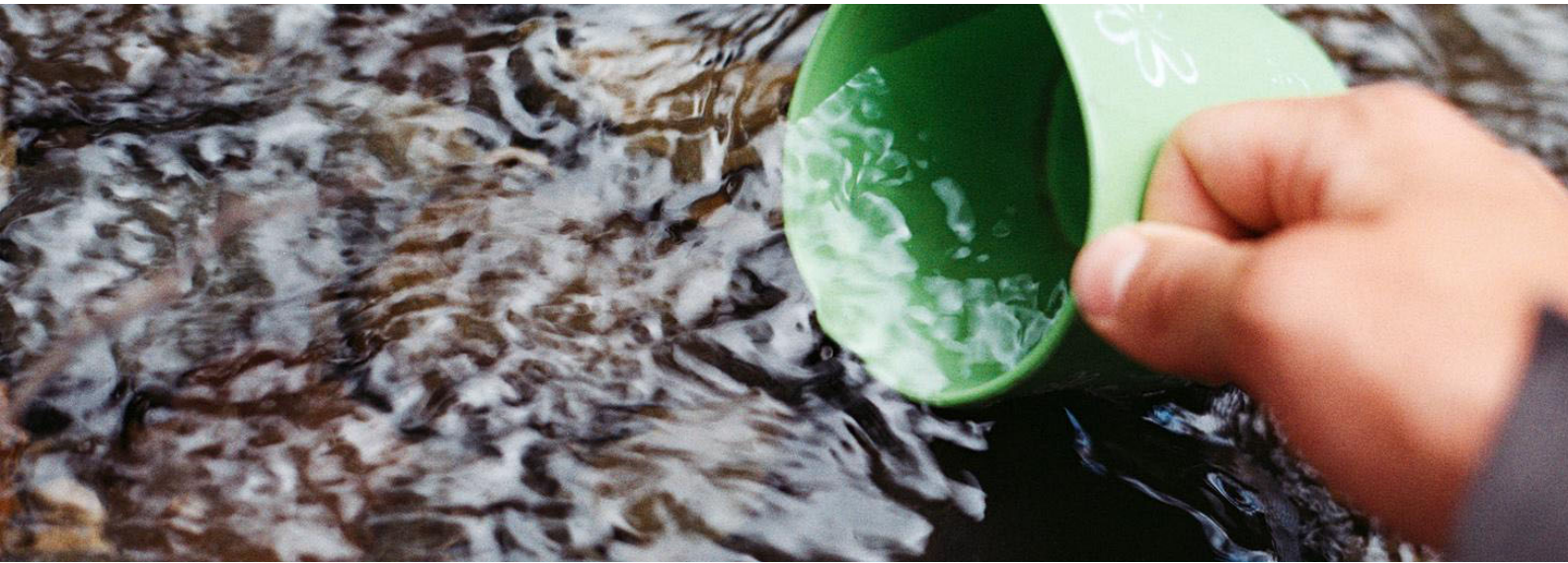


# Week 3: Enriching Connections



"Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life."

John 4:14

*Read the full Gospel  
John 4:5-16, 19-26,  
39-42*

We sometimes believe that we are the captains of our lives and control what is happening as we sail life's ocean. Inevitably, we come up against the obstacles: illness, job loss, separation, and death. The Samaritan woman who Jesus encounters at the well is one such person. At the well alone, during the hottest part of the day, things have not worked out in her life. Jesus offers her an amazing gift. The opportunity to never thirst again, to experience the eternal life God offers.

How do we become in touch with our own thirst? Are we willing to surrender and expect the unexpected - to give God control of our vessel? Where are the lighthouses in our life that help us to shift our course to a deeper life in Christ?

Many lights can guide our course. Prayer is first and foremost. If we need to refresh our prayer life, we may try journaling, and respond to some of the many questions Jesus asks us, for example: *Who do you say I am? What are you looking for?* Scripture also can light our way, as we take up segments of God's word and chew them over in our daily life, for example: *You are fearfully and wonderfully made* (Psalm 139:14), or *Do not fear, for I am with you* (Isaiah 41:10). Our faith community is our way of connecting with the Christ-light of others. And through outreach we bring Christ's light to the world, being shaped by the Spirit of Christ alive in society and creation.

Being at sea with Christ, is both liberating and risky, for when we hand over our vessel, we surrender our life to God, and being an intentional disciple becomes a life of constantly shifting course, always alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our life.

## *For Reflection*

What is one "light" you might seek to cultivate to help guide your intentional discipleship: prayer & sacraments, scripture, community life or service? How might you set a renewed course this year?