



## **YOU, A MIGHTY RIVER! (Children's Story/Parable)\***

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*Read aloud this scriptural reference: ““Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water”” (John 7:38, NRSV).*

*Pictures and maps of the great mountains and rivers of Asia, available on the internet, will enhance the sharing of the following object lesson:*

The Himalaya Mountains are the highest in the world. They form a 1,500-mile curve across Southern Asia. In some places they make a 200-mile-wide barrier separating Northern India from Tibet. Many rivers that flow through all of Asia begin from the melting snow of these mountains. Arising in the cold, harsh Tenglha range of Western China are four important rivers. Rushing through wild, deep gorges, the Yangtze flows into China. Burma receives the Salween and Irrawaddy. The Mekong empties into the South China Sea after it has passed through China, Tibet, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Millions of lives are influenced by these rivers that begin in the Himalayas and stretch east and west through Asia. From June to October they are often dangerously swollen by the melting snow and the monsoon rains. They provide for people to travel and carry their produce to other places. They also provide water to produce food for millions.

From those high peaks covered with snow come mountain streams that refresh a weary, thirsty world. These streams are constant suppliers to those rivers. They flow through the dry plains, making possible abundant fruits, vegetables, all kinds of grains, and blessings for all.

God promised that out of your heart will come not just a brook or stream, not just one river but many rivers.

Your spreading of Jesus’ love by showing your joy will be like the Yangtze that provides a great waterway for trade in Central China. Your willingness to do your part is like the Irrawaddy that benefits thousands of small Burmese villages as well as the capital city of Rangoon. Your smile brings beauty like the Salween, one of the most picturesque rivers of the world. Your cheerfulness is like the might Mekong, whose flooded delta is one of the world’s richest rice-producing areas. God’s power in your life will make you like many mighty rivers, carrying life and refreshment to others.

*Prayer:* Dear heavenly Father, help us to be rivers of blessing to our parents, our brothers and sisters, our playmates and schoolmates, and everyone we meet each day.

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\* Adapted, with permission from Eileen and Jay Lantry, *Stop Look and Listen* (Takoma Park, Md.: Review & Herald Publishing Association, 1976), p. 223.