

We originally conceived this to go with the introductory Alpha session called *Christianity: Boring, Untrue or Irrelevant?*

Cast: C1, C2 Street Cleaners, RD, Person reading a newspaper, VR - vendor giving away free drinks

Scene C1,C2 sweeping pavement. RD on bench reading a newspaper with shopping bags at feet.

C1 Phew - it's so hot
 C2 You're right - this is thirsty work.
 C1 I wish I had one of those really big bottles of Coke
 C2 Coke? It's disgusting. I hate Coke - yuk! That fizzy stuff isn't thirst quenching you know. Do you know what's in that? Acid. Phosphoric acid. If you leave a nail in it overnight it dissolves! I wouldn't let it pass my lips.
 C1 Don't be so critical. A lot of people drink Coke and you don't see them dissolving do you? That's the problem these days - people want to do others down for their genuine beliefs. I'm a Coke person and proud of it. Anyway, what would you like to drink then?
 C2 You're touchy aren't you? Now me, I fancy a big can of lager.
 C1 Lager? I never took you to be a lager lout. It's not thirst quenching either is it. For all I know, you'll probably end up sweeping the grass after you've had a few!
 C2 What was that about doing other people down? Besides, I can't have anything until we're off shift. What a pity we didn't bring something to drink with us.
 C1 I'm going to sit down. *(both sit down)*
 C2 I hope the boss doesn't catch us slacking on the job.
 C1 No - he's probably down the pub having a drink *(both laugh)*
 RD Don't talk to me about drink - I'm parched!
 C2 Then go and buy one.
 RD Easier said than done. I'm spent out and I've got to wait here for my bus home.
 C2 Shame that. We've a couple of hours till we come off shift
 C1 Yeah. I wish we'd brought a bottle of Coke.
 C2 Not that rubbish again. It's been scientifically proved that it does not quench your thirst..
 C1 *(toRD)* So what would you buy then if you had the money?
 RD Oh, probably one of those cartons of cranberry juice.
 C2 Ugh! I don't know how people can stand that stuff.
 RD Don't be so critical, I've a right to drink that stuff if I wish, It's a free country. I hate people who do others down just because they don't do the same as you.
 VR *(enters)* Good morning. You all look thirsty. Well, it's your lucky day. How about a refreshing drink?
 C2 Sounds good to me. How much?
 VR It's absolutely free - we're doing a promotion.
 C1,C2, Great.
 RD
 VR Here you are *(hands over bottle of water to C1)*
 C1 *(looks disapprovingly)* What's this?
 VR It's a bottle of spring water - guaranteed pure with all the necessary minerals for a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Look at the label.
 C1 *(Indignant)* But I don't drink this!

VR What's wrong with it?

C1 Water's sooooo boring. It's just tasteless and uninteresting. I never touch it. You can't compare it to a bottle of Coke - now that's real heaven!

VR Did you know that water is the most thirst-quenching of all drinks. You'll never get that from a bottle of Coke.

C1 I'm fed up of you self-righteous types coming and telling us to drink water. I've a right to my heaven not your boring rubbish,

VR I don't think our water is boring. Have you ever tried it. We do it in a number of flavours too.

C1 Try it. Of course not - why should I do that?

VR If you've never tried it you'll never know

C1 (*returning the bottle*) Boring is boring. Why should I?

VR (*to C2*) What about you?

C2 My friend's right. This stuff about mineral water is completely untrue. I mean - scientists have proved it haven't they - there's nothing in mineral water.

VR Well, there's water and minerals

C2 Poppycock that's what I say. The facts are against you.

RD People like you shouldn't be allowed to give that stuff away. I'd never trust a freebie. There's no such thing as a free lunch. It must be rubbish.

VR But it's free I assure you and very thirst quenching on a day like this.

C2 Rubbish. Untrue. Scientist have disproved it. Water is a waste of time and should not be drunk.

VR Which scientists?

C2 I don't know. Scientists. They just have that's all.

RD Drinking water is an irrelevant nonsense

VR Look, all I'm doing is trying to give you a bottle of water on a hot day. Free, gratis and thirst quenching. What's wrong with you people?

C1 Get the message - we don't want your trash - it's boring!

C2 Your claims are untrue

RD And you're irrelevant, so push off and leave us in peace.

VR Very well. But I just can't understand how thirsty people can turn down a free drink of water (*exits*)

C1 Water. What nonsense.

C2 I wish these people giving freebies away would just leave others in peace.

RD True. Mind you, I could do with a drink.

C2 I've got half a chocolate bar here, perhaps that will help.

RD Don't be daft. Anyway here's my bus.

C1 And we'd better get back to work.

C2 I can't get over the nerve of that person offering us water. Why would anybody want to deceive us like that into drinking water?

C1 I don't know. The next thing they'll be telling us is that eternal life is free or something.

C1, C2 Ha,ha, ha. (*exit*)

VR Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."