



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *Rivers of Living Water [John 7:25-52]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What things, ideas tend to cause division among people today?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

What is most noticeable in our text is how utterly alone Jesus is and how widespread He has been rejected, AND we are only in Chapter 7!

In what way is John pointing us to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior?

How do you handle rejection or feelings of being alone?

How might the experience of Jesus help us redefine loneliness, rejection, and self-giving love?

How can we use categories, labels, confirmation bias from seeing what is true? Perhaps, more importantly how can these things prevent us from sharing Christ with others?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 7:25-52]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

What questions did the people begin asking about Jesus? (7:25-26)

Why was it significant that people knew where Jesus was from? (7:27)

What did Jesus cry out in the temple court? (7:28-29)

What did the people try to do? (7:30)

What reason did some of the people give for putting their faith in Jesus? (7:31)

What did the Pharisees do when they heard the crowd talking about Jesus? (7:32)

What did Jesus say the people would be unable to do? (7:34)

How did the Jews respond to what Jesus said? (7:35-36)

What invitation did Jesus offer on the last day of the Feast? (7:37)
What result did Jesus promise for those who believed in Him? (7:38)
Why hadn't the Spirit been given yet? (7:39)
Why did the people get confused over Jesus' identity? (7:41-42)
What did some of the people want to do? (7:44)
How can we infer that the temple guard recognized Jesus' authority? (7:46)
Of what did the Pharisees accuse the temple guards? (7:47)
To what group did Nicodemus belong? (7:50)
What question did Nicodemus ask? (7:51)
What question was Nicodemus asked? (7:52)
What claim did the Pharisees make about Galilee? (7:52)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What can you tell about a person from his or her hometown?
How has your background shaped you into the person you are today?

How does Jesus still cause division today?

How might your loyalty to certain groups, people, ideas influence your opinions or beliefs more than Christ informs your ideas, opinions and beliefs?

How might today's religious leaders react to Jesus if He came back today?

What does the Pharisees lack of curiosity about where Jesus is from, and their false accusation, "no prophet came from Galilee" (when there are up to 5 prophets that came from Galilee in the OT) say about them?

How can we "misuse" our authority?

What do you think about Nicodemus' response?

In what way could we be "guilty" today of having a river of living water flowing from us? That Christ is the source of our lives in which the Spirit flows out of us and blesses others?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?