



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study: Chapter 7

How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Each week, we suggest you hand out the next week's reading plan and questions (or show them where to find it online). This will help people be prepared to discuss the week's reading as a group.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking. Or invite your small group to note which questions they would like to discuss.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: https://youtu.be/yTf9RpzKguU?si=vcDMYK9IbE_Ej02e

Read Scripture / Answer Questions

Closing prayer

Week #7 Reading Plan (October 29 - November 4)

Day 1: John 7:1-13

Day 2: John 7:14-24

Day 3: John 7:25-31

Day 4: John 7:32-44

Day 5: John 7:45-52

Day 1: John 7: 1-13

The Feast of Tabernacles is also called Sukkot (which means booths) or the Feast of Shelter. This year it fell on Oct 15-25, beginning and ending on a Sunday. During the feast, Israelites dwell in booths made from tree branches while they celebrate their deliverance from bondage in Egypt, God's provision for 40 years in the desert, and His continued provision. (You can read more about this feast in Leviticus 23.) The Biblical feasts are given to the Jews to remember what God had done, observe it in the present and know it had a future prophetic purpose.

The feasts are important to Christians as well. Much of Jesus's public ministry took place during feasts. Some believe it was during the Feast of Tabernacles that Jesus was born. In John 1:14 it says "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." The word John chose for dwelt is the same word as tabernacle. Most scholars agree the Feast of Tabernacles is also a foreshadowing of Jesus's second coming when He will dwell with us again and establish His earthly kingdom.

As you learn more about the details John includes - like the timing of Feasts and Jesus's ministry - how is your faith strengthened?

Jesus said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." (Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27) Jesus quoted this from Deuteronomy 6:5 How does it change your desire to learn knowing it is part of loving God with your mind?

Jesus was with his family (John 7:3-5). His brothers did not believe in Him as Messiah at this point. They assume He wanted attention; however, Jesus was concerned with how and when to appear to teach, not with getting attention.

Do you have family and friends who don't believe in Jesus yet? Knowing Jesus took care with when and how to share truth, how does this confirm or challenge how you share your faith?

Day 2: John 7:14-24

For the feast, Jesus is back in Jerusalem where people remember Him healing a sick man on the Sabbath (John 5) and the rules that they considered broken by that healing. Jesus points out that no one can keep the Law (which points to our need for a Savior).

In Matthew 5:17 Jesus says he came to fulfill the law. How did Jesus fulfill the Law?

Knowing He has done nothing wrong, and knowing what people are thinking or saying, Jesus asks, "Why do you want to kill me?" The crowd responds "You are demon possessed." In Jesus's time, this was the equivalent to saying "you're crazy."

How did Jesus respond to the crowd calling Him crazy? How do you respond when someone says "you're crazy" for believing Jesus is God?

Jewish leaders judged what could or could not be done on the Sabbath. Jesus challenged them to judge correctly.

Is there an area in your life where you are tempted to judge by appearance instead of looking at intent or heart?

Day 3: John 7:25-31

The people ask "Who is trying to kill you?" in verse 20 yet by verse 25 people ask "'Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?" This indicates that some were aware of the plot to kill Jesus. Verse 31 says, "they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."

Interesting that people tried to seize Him and could not. What might God have used to prevent them? What might God be using in your life right now because it is not time yet for the next thing in your life?

Day 4: John 7:32-44

Jesus tells the crowd in Jerusalem that He will be going to be with God the Father. He said something similar in John 6:62 while in Capernaum. Yet the people did not understand.

When was a time that God told you something that you could not understand until you had hindsight?

Jesus talks of living water, just as He had to the woman at the well (John 4). When Jesus says "as it is written" He may have been referencing Isaiah 55:1 ("Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..."). Or as Jesus said this during the feast when people were remembering God's provision in the wilderness, He may have been reminding people about when Moses struck a rock and water came out for the people to drink (Exodus 17:1-6). 1 Corinthians 10:3-4 says "they drank from the spiritual rock ... and that rock was Christ."

How does reading this and looking back to the Old Testament and ahead to the letters written to Corinth strengthen your belief?

Day 5: John 7:45-52

The Pharisees assume that the guards were deceived or that there was a curse on the crowd. This was a common assumption for them, giving them an excuse to ignore other perspectives.

How have your assumptions caused you to ignore other perspectives? How is learning stunted when we hold on to preconceived thinking or believing?

Nicodemus asks, "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?" This is exactly what Nicodemus had done in John 3; he sought Jesus out and asked him questions to learn.

How often when you are learning do you ask questions? How often when you are talking about Jesus to others do you ask them questions to help them think?