

Dear Life Group Leaders,

These are some wonderful verses we're exploring together today. They are very much part of a longer section, so make sure to set them in their proper context. Today's verses are taking place during the feast of tabernacles and Jesus is teaching about his identity. Be mindful of the different needs within your group. Jesus' invitation for the thirsty to come to him and drink extends to us as well. So apply Jesus' invitation to those specific needs within your group, encouraging people to come to him to find their satisfaction. Put in to practise what we were considering last week at Pentecost. May you know the Holy Spirit's presence among you as he ministers to you.

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy *(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Andy Tuck who works for our Wimbledon Venue)*

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

### **John 7:32-52**

**This Week's BIG IDEA:** Are you thirsty? Then come to Jesus and drink!

**Please read John 7:32-52**

1. v32, why are the chief priests and the Pharisees sending the temple guards to arrest Jesus?  
*[Leaders note: This is a good time to look back over the previous passages. At this stage they are looking to arrest Jesus on charges of disturbing the peace, as well as claims about himself.]*
2. v33-34, what is Jesus talking about here?  
*[Leaders note: Jesus is referring to his crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and glorification.]*
3. v35-36, what is the result of Jesus' riddle?  
*[Leaders note: Their confusion allows Jesus to slip away. Imagine this comical scene as the guards talk among themselves trying to figure out what Jesus was teaching them, all the while Jesus simply walks away, leaving them to their discussions.]*
4. v37-38, how does the context of the festival add weight to Jesus' teaching here? What is Jesus referring to when he talks about "rivers of living water"?  
*[Leaders note: The pouring out of libations was a key part of the feast of tabernacles. It reminded the people of the importance of water in the desert, and of God's provision in that time. The second part of the question should be a simple nod ahead to v39!]*
5. v39, what do you think it means to experience the Spirit's rivers of living water flowing within you? Can anyone share examples from their own lives?  
*[Leaders note: Remember what we looked at last week for Pentecost Sunday, encounters with the Holy Spirit release Praise, Gifts and Fruit.]*
6. v37-39, what thirst do you think Jesus is referring to? How can we come to him and drink?  
*[Leaders note: Make sure to end this study in a time of prayer and worship, coming to Jesus to drink water that truly satisfies as he quenches every desire with his love, grace and mercy. But, before you get to that moment... take note of the reactions to Jesus' teaching.]*
7. v40-44, what are the different reactions to Jesus listed in these verses?
8. v45-52, how do the Pharisees react when the temple guards return from their mission? What does this expose about them? What is the significance of Nicodemus speaking up in v50?  
*[Leaders note: They have a very low impression of the people they're supposed to be caring for, calling them deceived and cursing them (v47-49). Like the crowd in Jerusalem, they share the same disdain of the north. Nicodemus seems to answer the Pharisees question in v48... there is at least one of them who is willing to believe in Jesus.]*
9. Let's directly apply Jesus' teaching to our own lives. Let's come to him and drink. Let's pray and worship together. **Come, Holy Spirit.**