

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Throughout this week's passage, there's lots of confusion over who Jesus is and his purpose: is he the Messiah? Is he blasphemous? Is he dangerous? Views about Jesus are as polarised today as they were in the first century. The hope to hold onto throughout this week's passage is who Jesus says he is. He cuts through all the confusion and points to God his Father, who sent him to provide truth and salvation to a chaotic and lost world.

God bless,
Elizabeth

(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Elizabeth Ryan who attends our Wimbledon Venue)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 7:1-31

This Week's BIG IDEA: Can we trust in Jesus based on what he says about himself?

Please read John 7:1-10

1. v1, Jesus chooses to remain in Galilee because the religious leaders in Judea are looking to kill him. Why is this? Is his decision cowardly or wise?
[Leaders note: ask someone to provide a brief summary of John 5-6, which reveals the leaders' murderous motivations.]
2. v2-4, on the surface level, why might Jesus' brothers' advice seem good? Do you think they have his best interests at heart?
3. v5-10, how does Jesus' response show obedience to God and reveal his brothers' true motivations?
4. Jesus is always working according to God's plan. What can we learn from Jesus in these verses about timing and plans? Is anyone brave enough to share an example of when they relied on their own timing and plans rather than being obedient to God's? What was the outcome?

Please read John 7:11-24

5. v11-13, what do the crowds say about Jesus? What might contemporary 'crowds' say about Jesus? Have there been times when we've been afraid to share what we believe about Jesus because of fear?
6. v14-18, how do the religious leaders question Jesus' authority to teach in the temple courts? What does Jesus say about his identity and authority? How does he glorify God?
7. v19-20, why does Jesus call out the religious leaders for breaking the law of Moses? How are they breaking the law?
[Leaders note: The law Jesus refers to one of the ten commandments: 'You shall not murder' (Ex 20:13).]
8. v21-23, how does Jesus challenge the religious leaders' perceptions of the law? Where are we also in danger of falling into religion rather than relationship with God? What do we need to let go of in order to grab hold of Jesus?
9. v24, how have we judged Jesus by 'mere appearances' in the past? How can we make a correct judgement about him?

Read John 7: 25-31

10. v25-27, why do the Jerusalem crowds dismiss the possibility of Jesus being their Messiah?
11. v28-30, how does Jesus respond to the Jerusalem crowds? Where can we see similarities to his response to the Religious leaders? What does he say here about his authority and identity?
12. v31, many in the crowd place their faith in Jesus based on his miracles, but what do these signs point to?
13. How can we find security in what Jesus says about his identity and authority?
[Leaders note: We find our identity and security and trusting in who Jesus says he is: our Messiah, Saviour of the world, and because of his sacrifice, we can also call God 'Father.']