

John 7:1-39

CG Discussion Guide// Week of March 5, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: What is your go-to karaoke song?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Citizens Church, San Francisco, CA (Pastor: Dave Ainsworth)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- *CG leaders to share to CG if desired/needed: The time context of the passage is the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles (usually in September or October), a harvest festival and time of communal celebration to commemorate the Lord's provision for the Israelites while they were wandering and camping in the wilderness. Think Thanksgiving crossed with community-wide worship camping trips!*
- The text tells us that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him. From what John 1-6 has taught us, what would be some of the reasons that they didn't believe in Him?
 - What does it teach us about Jesus' humanity and family life?
- Knowing that even close members of Jesus' own family also rejected and possibly mocked him, how would that give perspective to Christian brothers and sisters who struggle with opposition and rejection from family due to their faith?
- Jesus connects obedience to the will of God with 2 things: knowing that Jesus is telling the truth and humility ("not seeking own glory") How do those things connect?
 - Many people claim to be doing God's will while rejecting Jesus and His claims. How would/should we respond and reach out to individuals like these?
- Jesus criticizes the Jewish leaders' hypocrisy of allowing circumcisions on the Sabbath while they oppose Jesus' Sabbath healings (John 5:1:18). What does this hypocrisy reveal about the leaders (other than they're hypocritical)?
- Jesus' critics often brought up His seeming lack of credentials (like v. 15). What were Jesus' credentials that he brought up in this passage?
 - How does Jesus' example encourage us and model for us how to engage with people about Him?
- How do we reconcile Jesus' foreboding warning to His opponents ("Where I am, you cannot come") and His public invitation to come to Him and drink living water? What does that teach us about Jesus? How should that inform how we reach out to people?
 - How have you experienced the "Living Water" your life, in the past and day-to-day?

Abide Time: John 7:1-39

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community– (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- March 10-19: Brazil Trip
- March 24-25: Gospel Culture Conference with Drew Hunter
- March 26: Child + Family Dedication and Redeemer-in-10
- April 1: Membership Class
- April 2: Palm Sunday
- April 5: Redeemer Women

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.