

The Gospel of

JOHN

Discussion Guide

February 18-19, 2023

John 7:25-52

Ice Breaker Questions

- In John 7:25-52 we see a botched arrest attempt. The religious leaders send officers to arrest Jesus, and they come back empty handed. So with this theme in mind, do you have a favorite comedic crime or detective movie or series? (eg. Sherlock Holmes, Pink Panther, the "Oceans" series, Catch Me if You Can, Arnold Swarzenegger movies 😊 etc). If so, which one (s) and why?

Understand Their Story

Quickly skim John 7:1-24 (last week's text) to remind yourself of the context of our passage. Where is Jesus? What feast is taking place, what is the mood of the narrative? **In Jerusalem, Jesus is at the temple. The Feast of Booths (remembering Israel's time in the wilderness). Mood is tense! Brothers & people questioning**

- John organized the 7:25-52 in a very distinct fashion. We'll be able to see his structure and big idea if we break it down into scenes using the chart below:

Scene 1 John 7:25-31	Scene 2 John 7:32-36	Scene 3 John 7:37-39	Scene 4 John 7:40-44	Scene 5 John 7:45-52
<p>Who are the main characters? The people (25, 31)</p> <p>What are their questions & assumptions? Do the authorities believe in him? (25-27) We know where he comes from (27)</p> <p>How does Jesus respond to them? I come from God, and you don't know God. (28b-29)</p> <p>Why is Jesus not arrested? Because his hour had not yet come (31)</p>	<p>Who are the main characters? The chief priests, Pharisees and officers (32)</p> <p>What are their questions & assumptions? Where is Jesus going? (35-36)</p> <p>How does Jesus respond to them? I am going to God and you cannot come (33-34)</p>	<p>Who is the main character? Jesus</p> <p>What does Jesus offer? Living water (38) the Spirit (39) To anyone who is thirsty (37)</p>	<p>Who are the main characters? The people (40, 43)</p> <p>What are their questions & assumptions? Jesus comes from Galilee. Isn't the Christ from Bethlehem? (41-42)</p> <p>Who is divided over Jesus? The people (43)</p> <p>Why is Jesus not arrested? Because the people are divided (43-44)</p>	<p>Who are the main characters? The chief priests, Pharisees and officers (v 45-52)</p> <p>What are their questions & assumptions? Do any of us believe in him? (48) No prophet comes from Galilee (v 52)</p> <p>Who is divided over Jesus? The officers and Pharisees (Nicodemus is a Pharisee)</p> <p>Why is Jesus not arrested? B/c the officers and Pharisees are divided.</p>

2. After examining the text using the chart above, what would you say John 7:25-52 is about? What are the big ideas of this text? **People wonder if Jesus isn't being arrested because the religious leaders believe in him. This is partly true because everyone (including the Pharisees and officers) are divided about Jesus! They all think they know where he comes from, and so don't think he's the Messiah. In the midst of this chaos of mis-information, Jesus says that they don't know where he comes from or where is going, but offers thirsty people living water.**

Connect to His Story.

3. As we learned last week, the Feast of Booths commemorates the time in which the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. During their 40 years of wandering, God regularly provided them with physical water. At this feast, Jesus offers people "living water" (7:38) which, John explains, is a metaphor for the Spirit (7:39). Several Old Testament prophets spoke about a future day when God would spiritually refresh his people. Read Isaiah 55:1-13 as an example.
 - a. What invitation does God issue in these verses? How is this reflected in John 7:25-52?
God's invitation: Come - everyone who thirsts - buy without money and without price!
Jesus' invitation: If anyone thirsts let him come and drink!
 - b. What does it look like to come to the water? (eg. what must people do to receive it?)
Listen (v 2), incline your ear (v 3), hear that your soul may live (v 3), seek the Lord (v 6), call upon him (v 6), forsake your ways and your thoughts (v 7), return to the LORD (v 7)
 - c. What will be the eventual reality for those who come to him?
They shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace (v 12)
4. Now read Revelation 22:17. What is the very last invitation offered in Scripture?
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." and let the one who hears say, "Come." and let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Apply to Our Story

5. John 7:25-52 reminds us that there are obstacles to belief, and there is a way through these obstacles.
 - a. The crowds and the religious leaders are divided over Jesus. What facts or presuppositions prevent them from believing in him? **They think they know where he comes from (Galilee) and no prophet comes from Galilee!**
 - b. What criteria for belief does Jesus identify? Who does he say will come to him?
Those who are thirsty. Those who long for and desire relationship with him¹.
6. Pray as a group for each other, and for those on your 5 x 5 x 5 cards: that 'thirst' would overcome obstacles to belief. Read Psalm 63:1-8 together, and pray that you, your friends and family members would behold God's power and glory (v 2), recognize that his love is better than life (v 3), be satisfied in him (v 5), run to him for help (v 7), cling to him and rest in the shadow of his wings (v 7-8).

God's work and our Work

How All of Life Connects to the Gospel - in John 7:25-52

¹ to have a strong desire to attain some goal, **thirst**, i.e. *long for someth.*, fig. ext. of 1 (Pla., Rep. 8, 562c; Plut., Cato Mai. 342 [11, 5]; Philo, Fug. 139 τοὺς διψῶντας κ. πεινῶντας καλοκάγαθίας; Ps 41:3; Sir 51:24) of thirst for the water of life **J 4:14; 6:35; 7:37; Rv 21:6; 22:17** (cp. Is 55:1). Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*](#) (3rd ed., p. 253). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

In John 7:25-52, the people and the religious leaders were judging Jesus based on mis-information; they thought he was from Galilee, and they knew the Messiah was supposed to come from Bethlehem (7:42). Little did they know, he WAS born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-6), but grew up in Galilee (Matthew 2:19-23).

Often, in our relationships at home, our neighbourhoods or workplaces, we assume we know more about people than we actually do, and we judge people's actions or motivations based on mis-information. This week, we'd challenge you to identify one person who you think you know well, and see if you can find out something new about their childhood, faith or family background that helps you understand them better.