

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?

1. 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
Who are the main characters?	Who are the main characters?	Who is the main character?	Who are the main characters?	Who are the main characters?
What are their questions & assumptions?	What are their questions & assumptions?	What does Jesus offer?	What are their questions & assumptions?	What are their questions & assumptions?
How does Jesus respond to them?	How does Jesus respond to them?		Who is divided over Jesus?	Who is divided over Jesus?
Why is Jesus not arrested?			Why is Jesus not arrested?	Why is Jesus not arrested?

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?

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?

 - b. What does it look like to come to the water? (eg. what must people do to receive it?)

 - c. What will be the eventual reality for those who come to him?
4. Now read Revelation 22:17. What is the very last invitation offered in Scripture?

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?

 - b. What criteria for belief does Jesus identify? Who does he say will come to him?
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

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.