

Week 11 Discussion Questions

Text: John 7:1-52; 8:12

Icebreaker: What are the traditions or rituals you participate in regularly (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly?) that serve to remind you of who God is and what he has done in your life?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?

The settings of Jesus' teachings throughout John so far have been foundational to understanding what He is trying to reveal about Himself in each encounter. As the setting of the Passover was key to understanding the cleansing of the Temple and the feeding of the five thousand, John tells us that the Festival of Booths is at hand, and this information will be helpful to understanding all Jesus says in this passage.

Read Leviticus 23:41-43 for the context of this Festival.

2. How does this passage describe what the Jews should do to celebrate this festival and what is it supposed to remind them of?

Other passages, like Deuteronomy 31:10-13 and Nehemiah 8:13-18 provide more details of this festival, including a heart of joy as they celebrate God's provision and the reading of the Law to all in attendance. Other Jewish texts describe the festival as a joyous celebration feast, including rituals involving drawing and pouring out water and lighting golden candlesticks. It is in this context that Jesus teaches in these verses.

3. Trace Jesus' activity throughout this festival. What does he do at the beginning, middle, and end of the festival?
4. In what ways does Jesus use the established festival rituals and what they celebrate to reveal Himself to the Jews?
5. What are the various ways people respond to Jesus in these verses?
6. What are the things Jesus claims about Himself in this passage?
7. What questions do you have about Jesus identity?
8. What are the divisions about ideas of Jesus from the text?
9. What divisions have you seen about Jesus identity?
10. What's the most perplexing thing about Jesus for you?