



John 7:1-39 Small Group Questions

- Read John 7:1-39 together as a group. What can you gather about this feast? How does it seem like the crowd is feeling about Jesus? Why would there be much “muttering” (v. 12) about him? What does that muttering entail?
- Summarize the conversation Jesus has with His brothers in verses 1-9. What do His brothers want Jesus to do? What does this say about their view of Him? How does Jesus respond?
 - Why would Jesus go to the feast in verse 10 after saying He would *not* go to the feast in verse 8?
- Jesus begins teaching in verse 14. How do the crowds and religious authorities respond? What does this say about their heart? What is it about Jesus’ teaching and manner that upsets them?
- Ben discussed the response of the crowds and the religious authorities as indicative of the inherent condition of the human heart. He said that the Pharisees, at their core, wanted to achieve, not receive, salvation. Why would the pharisees have this disposition?
 - How does this tendency show up in people’s hearts today?
 - How would you define legalism and moralism? How do you see these things cropping up in your own heart?
 - What has helped to redirect you away from legalism and moralism and toward receiving the grace of God?

- On the last day of the feast, Jesus begins to discuss the availability of living water to those who thirst. Where else has the concept of living water appeared in John so far? What did we learn about living water in that passage?
 - Ben mentioned that this is the invitation of Jesus that he offers to all those with the condition of thirst. What is the invitation? What will happen to those who approach Jesus for living water?
 - What does it look like for people to approach Jesus for living water today?
 - Ben discussed the fact that people sometimes misunderstand the invitation of Jesus by turning Christianity into mysticism or intellectualism. What is the misunderstanding that lies in turning Christianity into a purely mystical religion?
 - What makes mysticism appealing?
 - What can make mysticism dangerous?
 - What is the misunderstanding that lies in turning Christianity into a purely intellectual system?
 - What makes intellectualism appealing?
 - What can make this approach to Christianity dangerous?
 - Where does intellectual curiosity go from being something good and healthy to something destructive or erroneous?
 - Which of these tendencies do you think you lean towards?
 - How do mysticism and intellectualism conflict with the essence of Jesus' invitation to rest, receive His grace, and proclaim His gospel to others?
- In verse 39, John tells us that living water is synonymous with the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit satisfy the thirst that all humans have?