

So Close, But So Far

Pastor Tommy Creutz | John 7:1-31

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion, or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Ice Breaker

What was your favorite part of your week?

Understanding the Text in Context

Read Leviticus 23:33-43, where God originally commands the Israelites to celebrate and remember his provision for the people by dwelling in tents. What does it mean that Jesus chooses to begin teaching during the Feast of Booths? What is Jesus saying in this action?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

Read John 1:10-13 alongside John 7:1-9. How does Jesus being rejected by those closest to Him fulfill John's introduction to the Gospel?

The Gospel says we are saved by grace through faith, not performative actions. Have you ever confused proximity to Christianity with genuine faith in Jesus? What makes the difference?

John 7 shows that people can be very close to Jesus and still misunderstand the Gospel. Where do you see that same danger in our culture today? In the Church? In our church?

Living Out the Truth

Where are you most tempted to settle for familiarity with Jesus rather than active faith in Jesus?

Where have you become spiritually calloused to truths that once deeply affected you?

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Read the passage together. Talk about the different perspectives that the people had towards Jesus.

Discuss who had the correct perspective. What are some reasons that people can come to the wrong conclusion about Christ?

Further Study

Read your John Study Journals, looking ahead to next week's sermon and text for John 7:32-52:

"Don't Miss Him", "Living Water", and "Jesus is the Christ".