SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 7

Rivers of Living Water

NAME _____ DATE _____

KEY VERSE · JOHN 7:37–38 · NASB

"Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

At the Feast of Booths everyone has an opinion about Jesus: His brothers, the crowds, the rulers, the temple police. Watch the arguments pile up, and then watch Jesus stand and cry out.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 7 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 7. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
time		
seek / seeking		
believe / believing / believed / believes		
teaching		
sent		
Christ		

JOHN 7:1–13 The Brothers and the Time

1 OBSERVE

What do Jesus' brothers urge Him to do, and what does John say about them (7:3–5)?

2 INTERPRET

Jesus says, "My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune" (7:6). What is the difference between His time and theirs?

3 APPLY

His brothers did not believe in John 7, but later they were praying with the church (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor 15:7). Who in your family are you tempted to give up on?

JOHN 7:14–24 Whose Teaching

4 OBSERVE

What surprises the Jews about Jesus' teaching, and what does He say it is (7:15–16)?

5 INTERPRET

Read 7:17 carefully. According to Jesus, what is the key to knowing whether His teaching is from God?

6 OBSERVE

What is Jesus' argument from circumcision on the Sabbath (7:22–23), and what command does He give (7:24)?

7 APPLY

Where are you waiting to understand before you will obey? What would it look like to turn 7:17 around this week?

JOHN 7:25–36 Where Is He From?

8 OBSERVE

What do the people of Jerusalem think they know about Jesus (7:27)? How does He answer (7:28–29)?

9 OBSERVE

Why could no one seize Him (7:30)?

10 INTERPRET

The crowd says no one will know where the Christ is from (7:27), and also that the Christ comes from Bethlehem (7:42). What does John's reader know that the crowd does not?

JOHN 7:37–39 The Cry

11 OBSERVE

When does Jesus speak, how does He speak, and what does He offer (7:37–38)?

12 INTERPRET

What does John say the living water is, and why was it not yet given (7:39)?

13 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Sproul pictures the cry coming "while the Jews are pouring the water out, remembering the water that came from the rock." Henry: "Believers drink of a rock in them, Christ in them." What was Jesus saying about the feast's ceremony?

14 APPLY

Jesus said "rivers," not a trickle. Where is your spiritual life dry, and what keeps you from coming to drink?

JOHN 7:40–53 Division

15 OBSERVE

What did different people in the crowd say about Jesus (7:40–42), and what was the result (7:43)?

16 OBSERVE

Why did the officers come back without Jesus (7:45–46)?

17 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Henry: "Facts, and not faces, must be known in judgment." What did Nicodemus ask (7:50–51), what did it cost him (7:52), and where is he by 19:39?

18 APPLY

Nicodemus took one small, costly step in the open. What small step of open loyalty to Jesus do you need to take?

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

19 WORD *skēnopēgia* · G4634 · tent-pitching; the Feast of Booths

The feast name (7:2) shares a root with "dwelt" (pitched His tent) in 1:14. What does the feast remember, and how does Jesus fulfill it?

20 WORD *schisma* · G4978 · a tear, a split

John uses this word three times, always of people dividing over Jesus (7:43; 9:16; 10:19). Why does Jesus always divide a crowd?

PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 7 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.