



That You May
HAVE LIFE

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

women's
BIBLE STUDY



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LESSON *Seven*

Light of the World

In this section, Jesus goes to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Booths, also known as the Feasts of Tabernacles. While there, He taught in the temple and tensions with the Jewish leaders grew to an all-time high. Jesus, with a desire for the Jews to see He was their Messiah, made some serious claims: “I am the light of the world,” greater than anyone who came before Him. The Jews did not understand and instead wanted to kill the One who came to rescue them.

BIBLE STUDY TIP

Take note whenever a word or phrase is repeated in Scripture. Repetition is often used by the Biblical authors to emphasize or bring attention to a certain idea.

REJECTION

Remember, Jesus was the long awaited Messiah of the Israelites, promised from the time of Adam in the Garden of Eden. This is why He spent so much time engaging with the Jewish leaders of the day. He had come to offer them life, yet they rejected Him.

FEAST OF BOOTHS

Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, this was a feast of praise. It was a time to thank God for His blessing in the harvest.³⁵

Read John 7-8 before answering the following questions.

1. Where do you see the anger of the Pharisees growing? From what you have read so far in John, why were they so upset?
2. Despite their desire to arrest Jesus, the phrases, “but no one laid hands on him” and “my time has not yet come” are repeated. Why didn’t anyone arrest Jesus? What timeless truth do you learn about God’s timing and control? (See Appendix: God’s Sovereignty)

Read John 7:1-52.

3. This entire section tracks Jesus’ movements and teaching throughout the Feast of Booths. Using the timeline below, plot the major events and/or teachings.



4. What promise does Jesus make in verses 37-39? Explain the Holy Spirit's role in fulfilling this promise. (See also Isaiah 58:11 and Joel 2:28-29)

5. Jesus and His message tend to be polarizing as seen in this passage. What were some of the major questions the crowds were asking about Jesus? What were their primary concerns about Him?

6. Think about a time you experienced conflict or tension with family or friends over your beliefs about Jesus and His Word. What did you learn from this experience? What have you seen to be best practices when approaching these conversations?

Read John 7:53-8:30.

7. The earliest copies of Scripture do not include John 7:53-8:11, indicating that they could have happened but were added to the Bible at a later date. However, there are still principles that can be gleaned from the text. In this story, Jesus was ultimately concerned with the Pharisees. Why did He condemn them? Who do you relate to more: the Pharisees or the woman? Why?

Meditate on this passage and ask the Lord to help you more fully believe in His grace and love today.

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

– *Ephesians 3:14, 17-19*

JESUS' REFUSAL

Jesus, knowing His time had not yet come, resisted His brother's attempt to push Him to display His works publicly. Instead, He later went privately to the temple to teach.

HOLY SPIRIT

For more Scripture on the Holy Spirit, read John 14:16, Acts 1:8, Romans 5:5, 1 Corinthians 2:7-13, and Ephesians 1:13-14.

CONFLICT

For help resolving conflict in a biblical way, read Watermark Community Church's Conflict Field Guide on watermark.org.

JOHN 7:53-8:11

“...There is nothing in [John 7:53-8:11] unworthy of sound doctrine. It seems best to view the story as something that probably happened during Jesus' ministry but that was not originally part of what John wrote in his Gospel.”³⁶

“I AM”

Jesus makes His second “I am” statement here: “I am the light of the world.” Jesus may have used this imagery because His sermon was given around the time of the Feast of Booths, a festival in which lights had an important role.

LIGHT

For more verses on God as light, read Psalm 27:1, 36:9, 104:2, Isaiah 49:6, and 1 John 1:5.

8. As you read through John 8:12-30, record a few key phrases you come across from Jesus’ teaching. Why did you choose these phrases?

9. Write down what comes to mind when you hear the word “light.” What are some of its benefits and purposes? How does this impact your understanding of Jesus’ claim in verse 12?

10. According to these verses the penalty for unbelief in Jesus is death. How does this motivate you to share the good news of Jesus (John 3:16) with others? (See Matthew 28:19-20) How can you share the truth of the gospel in a loving way? Who is someone you can share this news with this week?

“Sunlight varies in amount and intensity depending on the time of year, but unlike this, God, who is light and gives light (wisdom/understanding), does not change according to the seasons. Nothing overshadows or changes God who is light; he is constant, and what he wills for a fallen, sinful world most of all is new creation, redemption, and wisdom for living an “enlightened” and light-filled life that mirrors the very character of God.”

– Ben Witherington III³⁷

Read John 8:31-59.

11. Using the ESV translation, fill in the blanks from verses 31-32:

“If you _____ in my word, you are truly my _____, and you will know the _____, and the truth will set you _____.”

According to Jesus, what is evidence that you are truly His disciple? In your life, what does it look like to abide, or remain, in His word? What challenges or obstacles do you face in abiding daily?

12. In the Old Testament (Genesis 12 and 15), God made a promise to Abraham that extended to the Jewish people in Jesus’ time. Read the passages below and note the main points of each.

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 15

Exodus 3:14

Why is the statement Jesus makes, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am” so revolutionary?

13. Jesus revealed more about abundant life with Him here on earth: the gift of the Holy Spirit (7:38-39), knowledge of truth (8:31-32), and freedom from sin (8:34-36). Where in your life would you like to experience these things more fully? What steps can you take to experience more of this abundant life today?

ABIDE

Abide can also be translated “remain.” For an in-depth definition of what it means to abide, turn to the Appendix. You will learn more about abiding in Christ in John 15.

ABRAHAM

Abraham’s full story can be found in Genesis 12-25.

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

The Pharisees believed they were the sons of Abraham, meaning they would benefit from God’s blessing to him (verses 39-58). Jesus claimed that if the Pharisees were truly sons of Abraham, they would believe in Him as the Messiah rather than expressing a desire to kill Him.

HISTORY OF ISRAEL

For a quick overview of Israel’s history, read Nehemiah 9:6-39.

LIFE

Rejecting Jesus leads to death in your sin, while belief leads to life. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” All you need for salvation is to believe.



BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Review: Jesus' Seven I Am Statements

I am the _____ of _____. (John 6:35, 48)

I am the _____ of the _____. (John 8:12)

Notes