

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Reason for the Season – John 7:25–52

Opening Question

- When you hear the phrase “Jesus is the reason for the season,” what comes to mind—and how does that change when we apply it beyond Christmas?
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Read the Passage

John 7:25–52

(Encourage a volunteer to read aloud, or read in sections together)

Background & Summary

During the Feast of Tabernacles, a Jewish celebration of God's provision and presence, Jesus publicly declares that He is the source of “living water.” His words challenge the expectations of the people and the religious leaders—He claims to be the fulfillment of this sacred festival. This moment points to both who He is and what He’s calling His followers to: a life shaped by the Spirit and marked by mission.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. What were the main points of confusion for the people and leaders regarding Jesus' identity in this passage?
 - (vv. 27, 41–42 – They thought they knew where the Messiah should come from.)
2. How does Jesus’ declaration in verses 37–38 connect to the themes of the Feast of Tabernacles?
3. What is the significance of Jesus making this entire festival “about Himself”? Why would that have been shocking?

Going Deeper

4. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles—both in His person and in what He promises?
5. What does it mean that “living water will flow from within” those who believe in Him? How is this tied to the Holy Spirit (v. 39)?
6. What difference does it make to see Jesus not only as the *Savior* but also the *Sender*?

Application & Mission

7. The message highlighted that “the fruit of Spirit-filled churches is sending, not just attending.” What might that look like for us personally and as a group?
8. Consider the three areas of mission discussed:
 - **Global:** Do you sense any personal calling to global missions or support for those who are sent?
 - **Regional:** How might we be part of what God is doing through churches in our area or nearby communities?
 - **Personal:** Where are the "thirsty people" in your life right now—at work, school, neighborhood, or elsewhere? What would it look like for living water to flow through you there?

Reflection & Prayer

“If we drink deeply of Jesus, living water will flow out of us.”

- Where do you need to drink deeply of Jesus right now?
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you, for eyes to see where God is sending you, and for boldness and compassion in engaging the mission.

Prayer Prompts:

- “Jesus, thank you that you are the Living Water—fill me afresh with your Spirit.”
- “God, give me a heart not just to attend, but to be sent—to see others with your eyes.”
- “Lord, let living water flow through our group into our city, region, and world.”