

Small Group Discussion Guide

Text: John 7:1–24

Title: Booths, Brothers, and Belief

Welcome and Icebreaker (5–10 minutes)

- Share about a time you misjudged something based on appearances. What happened? What changed your mind?
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Read the Passage (5 minutes)

John 7:1–24

Encourage one or two people to read it aloud.

Zoom Out: Context Matters (10–15 minutes)

1. What do you remember about the **Feast of Booths** (Tabernacles)? Why is it significant that Jesus spoke during this time?
 2. How does understanding the **bigger storyline of John (chapters 1–6)** help you better understand what's happening in chapter 7?
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Zoom In: Key Observations (25–30 minutes)

1. Jesus Exposes Sin

- Verse 7 says, *"The world hates me because I testify that its works are evil."*
Q: Why is this so polarizing? How do people typically respond to having their sin exposed?
Q: Have you experienced this personally—either feeling exposed or resisting Jesus' light?

2. Following Jesus is Costly

- In verse 13, no one speaks openly about Jesus *"for fear of the Jews."*
Q: Where do you feel pressure today to hide your faith or stay silent about Jesus?
Q: What helps you stay bold in your faith when it's not popular or easy?

3. Jesus Disrupts Human Agendas

- Jesus' brothers had expectations for how and when he should act (vv. 3–6). The religious leaders had assumptions about what qualified someone to teach (vv. 14–15).
Q: How does Jesus challenge the assumptions of people in this chapter?
Q: What expectations or personal agendas might Jesus be confronting in your life right now?

Application: Right Judgment (15 minutes)

- Jesus says in verse 24, *“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”*

Q: What does it look like to "judge with right judgment"?

Q: How do we grow in discernment so we can see Jesus—and others—rightly?

Challenge:

- Think of an area in your life where you're tempted to rely on appearances (e.g., success, image, behavior). What would it look like to see that area with spiritual clarity this week?

Prayer (10 minutes)

- Pray that your group would:
 - Be open to conviction where needed.
 - Have courage to follow Jesus even when it's costly.
 - Develop deeper spiritual discernment.
 - Hunger for God's Word and wisdom.

Encourage group members to pray in smaller groups or pairs if time allows.