

LEARNER GUIDE

John 7:37-39

Who is Jesus? Jesus is _____ from which Living Water flows.

And Living Water is the _____.

Through the person of the Holy Spirit, God does 3 things:

- Reveals His _____.
- Helps believers _____ Jesus.
- Helps believers know how to live in ways that _____.

John 8:2-11

Jesus hadn't come to condemn the world. He came to _____ the world.

Jesus hadn't come to cast _____; He came to cast down _____

John 8:12, *And again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am _____
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

John 8:31-36

Jesus hadn't come to condemn the world. He came to forgive the world, and He came to _____
the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal God's will and help believers to tell others about Jesus and know how to live in ways that please God. Can you think of a time in your life when it was obvious the Holy Spirit helped you in one of these ways?
2. In not condemning the woman caught in adultery, did Jesus ignore or excuse her sins? Explain your reasoning behind your answer.
3. Why do you think so many people then and now refuse Jesus' invitation to step into the light and follow Him, the Light of the World?
4. In John 8:31, Jesus instructed believers to *abide* in His word. What does that look like in the life of a believer?
5. How would you respond to someone who says that Christianity is a list of rules to be followed?

PERSONAL STUDY

Part One

Read John 7:1-52

Some commentators refer to John 7 as “The Conflict Chapter.” Why do you think this chapter garners that title?

John 7:43 says, “So there was a division among the people over him.” (ESV) During His earthly ministry, Jesus divided people. The division didn’t so much come because Jesus was controversial, but because people had to decide — either they believed Jesus is who He says He is or they did not. Does Jesus still divide people today? If so how?

Look again at John 7:3-5. The text tells us that not even Jesus’ brothers believed in Him at this point. They challenged Jesus to go to Jerusalem, manifest His power in front of all the people, and prove Himself to the world. Theologian Richard Trench described Jesus’ brothers this way, “His brothers were thinking that His success depended on the world’s attitude of him; in other words, they believed in the world rather than in Him.” Do some people today want to craft Jesus into someone the world will approve of? What are some ways you can see that happening?

In John 7:24, Jesus encourages believers to be different than the world, “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with right judgment.” And right judgment comes from believing the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth!

Close in prayer for someone you know who has decided Jesus isn’t who He says He is.

Part Two

Read again John 7:37-39

This week we studied Jesus' invitation to anyone who is thirsty to come to Him and drink. We recognized that Jesus was telling the crowds at the temple that day that He is the Rock from which Living Water flows, just as a rock provided life-sustaining water to the Israelites while they wandered in the desert in Exodus 17:1-6. Review that passage.

In Exodus 17:6, God commanded Moses to strike a rock and promised water would come out of it. God gave Moses a similar command in Numbers 20. Read Numbers 20:1-9. What did God command Moses do to the rock in this passage?

In Exodus, the first time God brought water from the rock, God commanded Moses to strike it. The second time God commanded Moses to *speak* to it. Did Moses obey? Read Numbers 20:10-12 to confirm.

Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses struck it, not once but twice. And because Moses did not follow God's command, God forbade him from entering the Promised Land. Does this seem like an excessively harsh punishment to you? Why or why not?

The New Testament makes it clear this water-providing, life-giving rock was a picture of Jesus (1 Corinthians 10:4). Jesus, being struck once, provided life for all who would drink of Him. But it was unnecessary and unrighteous that Jesus would be struck again because the Son of God need only suffer once (Hebrews 10:10-12). Moses' disobedience was so significant because it defaced a beautiful picture of God's redemptive work.

Read Romans 10:8-10. After considering this passage, why do you think God wanted Moses to speak to the rock?

Close in prayer, acknowledging that because Jesus paid once and for all for our sins, we can come to Him with words of faith to receive forgiveness and salvation.

Part Three

Read John 8:1-59

We learned this week that the purpose of Jesus' earthly ministry was not to condemn the world, but to provide forgiveness to the world through the sacrifice of His death and power of His resurrection. (John 3:17)

Now that sin has been dealt with once and for all, Jesus' promised return will be for a different reason. Read Hebrews 9:28. What does this verse tell us Jesus will do in His second coming?

In 2 Timothy 4:1-2, Paul charges Timothy to continue to preach God's Word. His urgency comes from an understanding and expectancy of Jesus' second coming. What role does verse 1 assign to Jesus upon His second appearance?

The purpose of Jesus' first coming was to forgive. When Jesus returns, it will be to *judge* and to *save*. Those who have rejected Jesus will be judged according to their own works, but those who have received His gift of forgiveness will be saved unto eternal life.

In the Book of John, time and time again we see Jesus' enemies trying to discredit His invitation to life. Look again at John 8:51-52, and fill in the blanks: *Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never _____ death. The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never _____ death.'"*

Jesus doesn't promise His believers will never *taste death*, or in other words will never die. He promises they won't see *death*. More literally interpreted, the Greek phrase used by Jesus means *our face is turned away from death*. Charles Spurgeon describes it this way, "When the gospel of the Lord Jesus comes to my soul, I am completely turned around. My back is upon death, and my face is towards life eternal life."

Close in prayer, asking God to give you the same urgency to share His Word that Paul encouraged in Timothy, believing that Jesus is coming back to save and to judge.

Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 7 or 8.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 7 and 8.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

Looking Ahead

Read John 9-10.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.
