

Ice Breaker:

What was your High this week? What was your Low?

Groups Discussion Questions:

John 7:1-24

7 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. **2** But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, **3** Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. **4** No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." **5** For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. **7** The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. **8** You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." **9** After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. **11** Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." **13** But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. **15** The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"

16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. **17** Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. **18** Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. **19** Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

20 "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

21 Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. **22** Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. **23** Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? **24** Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

Why do you think Jesus was unwilling to walk to Judea publicly?

Why do you think Jesus' brothers told him to go?

How does verse 5 make you feel? What does it make you think about?

Why did the world hate Jesus?

Does the world still hate Jesus? How is that seen?

If this were present times, what might someone say instead of "you are demon possessed!"

Have you ever been called crazy for your faith?

What is the thing that Jesus did that angered people and made them want to kill Him?

John 8:37 gives us more understanding about why they wanted to kill Jesus.

John 8:37

37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

What does it mean that they had no room for Jesus' word?

Fill in the soundbites from the teaching this week:

1. What Jesus teaches didn't fit their _____ or their _____.

2. What Jesus teaches might cause them to loose _____, _____ or _____.

3. What Jesus teaches might cost them the _____ they love.

Answers:

1. Narrative or expectations
2. Status, authority or control
3. Sin

Have the teachings of Jesus ever been an affront to you?

Have you ever tried to “Kill” Jesus by silencing His truth in your heart or in others?

What word has Jesus been teaching you lately?

Prayer Requests

Digging Deeper:

John 10:1-10

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.**2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” **6** Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Who are those who enter by a way other than the gate?

What are the characteristics of the gatekeeper?

Who or what does Jesus refer to himself as in verse 7?

What does this mean?

Re-read the ten verses, who are the thieves? What do they do?

Who is the father for those who steal, kill and destroy?

How can people steal, kill and destroy emotionally? What about spiritually?

What does life to the full mean?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9, Ephesians 3:20