



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 7:1-24

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After this, Jesus traveled in Galilee, since he did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill him. The Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples can see your works that you are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he’s seeking public recognition. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” (For not even his brothers believed in him.)

Jesus told them, “My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. The world cannot hate you, but it does hate me because I testify about it—that its works are evil. Go up to the festival yourselves. I’m not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” After he had said these things, he stayed in Galilee.

After his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but secretly. The Jews were looking for him at the festival and saying, “Where is he?” And there was a lot of murmuring about him among the crowds. Some were saying, “He’s a good man.” Others were saying, “No, on the contrary, he’s deceiving the people.” Still, nobody was talking publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. Then the Jews were amazed and said, “How is this man so learned, since he hasn’t been trained?”

Jesus answered them, “My teaching isn’t mine but is from the one who sent me. If anyone wants to do his will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. The one who speaks on his own seeks his own glory; but he who seeks the glory of the

one who sent him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him. **19** "Didn't Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

20 "You have a demon!" the crowd responded. "Who is trying to kill you?"

21 "I performed one work, and you are all amazed," Jesus answered. **22** "This is why Moses has given you circumcision—not that it comes from Moses but from the fathers—and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. **23** If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won't be broken, are you angry at me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath? **24** Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment."

Sermon Summary:

The annual week-long Festival of Shelters was celebrated in Jerusalem and it was expected that all faithful Jews would attend. Usually, people traveled to Jerusalem in family groups or with their community. This is the setting where Jesus' brothers challenge him to make himself known to the world by making a display at the festival. The comments that his brothers make is often glossed over, however the writer makes it clear that they did not believe in Jesus. Their comments are a challenge as well as a mocking of how he acts and conducts himself. Jesus does not act on their challenge but implicitly indicates he does not take orders from them but from His Father and that they are part of the world since the world does not hate them. The opposition that Jesus faced from his family is not uncommon for those faithful followers of Jesus. Sometimes those close to us challenge or question our following of Jesus. Jesus did not let his family influence his following the Father's will.

Discussion:

1. What are the challenges that Jesus' brothers made to him?
2. What comments indicate they mocked Jesus?
3. Why do you think they made these comments? Did they have a hidden motive, if so, what might it have been?
4. How do you reconcile "...I'm not going up to this festival" (v. 8) with "...he also went up..." (v. 10)?
5. Verse 12 indicates that there were different responses about Jesus. What were they? What responses do people have about Jesus today?
6. Have you experienced opposition or challenges from people because of your belief and following Jesus?
7. From whom did you experience these challenges?
8. What were these challenges?
9. How did you respond?
10. How would you respond today?

End with Prayer:

Pray for each other to be strengthened when we are challenged in our faith and following Jesus.