

Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 7:14-52

Sermon Summary:

Jesus went up to the Feast in Jerusalem amidst all kinds of speculation & favour about himself. The main debate was around whether or not he was God's promised Messiah? Whether Jerusalem residents or pilgrims who journeyed to the Feast from far & near locations, the debate raged on. Most people held firmly to their 'understanding' of God's Messiah, and used those to judge or measure whether Jesus lined up with them or not. The challenge for them was simple: *"Will you hold to your concept or idea of who the Messiah will be, or will you let go of it to receive what Jesus has for you?"* He offers to quench everyone's deep thirst for life, for love, for peace & for freedom by offering us Living Water (Jn. 7:37-38). Will we hold firmly to our ideas or take him up on his offer?

Discussion:

1. Talk about a time when you or someone close to you experienced being unfairly judged/stereotyped. How did it make you feel? As Christians who experience what Jesus experienced, how are you

helped?

2. Share about a time when you may have judged Jesus unfairly. How firmly did you hold to your incorrect ideas about Jesus? What helped you drink his Living Water?
3. Discuss with one another the different views the people in John 7 had about Jesus. Where did they get these ideas from? Were their ideas correct or incorrect, or both? Can you see how easy it is for us to misunderstand Jesus' identity?
4. Embedded in and amongst all these views about Jesus is an offer of salvation from Jesus. He wants to satisfy our deep longings and thirst with his Living Water. When did you first drink his Water? What difference has it made?
5. When Jesus offers people Living Water, he is offering something from outside of themselves. This is such an important part of the salvation that God offers to us. Talk about helping friends & colleagues see that help doesn't come from within ourselves, but comes from the One outside of us (i.e., God).
6. Consider who you could begin to pray for who you'd like to invite to join us for Alpha on September 21st

End with Prayer.

- Ask God to expose any concept about Jesus that is hindering your progress with him.
- Pray for one another.