



GOSPEL | COMMUNITY | MISSION

September 16, 2018

John 7-9

"Can This Be the Christ? (Part 1)"

QUESTIONS

(*potential* discussion/conversation questions to use in your GGs this week)

1. Icebreaker. Tony mentioned the importance in water and light for our survival. Particularly in preparation for Hurricane Florence, what kinds of preparations did you see as people were getting ready for the storm this past week?
2. What was impactful to you about this sermon and text? What are some ways that you were challenged to respond?
3. Part of the rhythm of the festivals was to provide time for Jewish people to reflect, be thankful, and share hopes and dreams. The Jews looked at three different perspectives.
Past – reflecting on God's provision for them in the wilderness.
Present – thanking God for their crops
Future – expressing longings for their future.

How can we benefit from taking time to do the same thing?

4. You can't live without spiritual water and spiritual light, and you find them only in Jesus. Apart from him, we are thirsty, and apart from him, we are walking in darkness. We have seen throughout the book of John people struggling to understand these analogies that Jesus gives—being born again, I am the bread of life, I am the living water, etc.
Why do you think the Jews had such trouble believing and understanding what Jesus was saying?
How can you relate to the trouble they were having? What advantages do we have two thousand years later?
5. What hope was offered through this text to those of us who have unbelieving family members? What is our responsibility if we have family members who do not know Christ? What encouragement can we glean from this passage as we interact with unbelievers?
6. What were some of the examples that Tony gave of the wrong reasons to follow Jesus? For each example, explain how the reason is based on a faulty understanding of who Jesus is.
7. Tony called us to imitate the Savior in offering light and water to a needy world. He referenced Ephesians 5:7-11: "*7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in*

all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."

What is our role to play in exposing sin and pointing people to the light? What do we have to contribute to the situation? How can you do this in your circles of influence?

(*Special thanks to **Sara Beth Fentress** for her help in compiling these questions.)