

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 10, 2016

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: Jesus is the eternal, all-satisfying Son of God who invites people of all nations, languages, and backgrounds to himself for forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

This Week's Text: John 7:37-52

"Come if you do thirst, and come if you think you do not thirst but wish you did, for that wish to thirst is the very thirst you wish for. Your lack of a power to feel. Your lack is your greatest lack...The more unfit you feel yourself to be, the more you are invited to come. Your very unfitness is your fitness for coming to Jesus." **Charles Spurgeon**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- Why were the people of Jerusalem in a state of confusion about Jesus' identity? What were some of the reasons they doubted Jesus' claims? Looking back on chapters 1-7. What claims had Jesus made about his identity? Why does confusion about Jesus' identity persist to this day?
- Is it true, as the Pharisees claimed, that no prophet has come from Galilee? What does the Old Testament prophesy about Galilee at the time of the Messiah's arrival? Reference Isaiah 9:1-2 and Matthew 4:15-16.
- What Jewish feast is taking place in this passage? What did the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles
 commemorate and celebrate? What invitation did Jesus give on the last day of the feast?
 Who is thirsty? Who was the invitation directed to? How is our thirst eternally satisfied?
- How does Jesus fulfill the types, shadows, and symbols of the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles?
- How did the Spirit's activity change after Jesus' atoning work on the cross? How does the Holy Spirit work in the life of the Christian?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?