

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes
w/c 19th February 2023
Come and See – At the Feast John 7:25 - 52

We're working our way through the gospel of John in our Sunday morning services. Our home group studies will pick up the topic from the Sunday before the meeting. This means we won't cover the whole of the Gospel of John in these outlines. Feel free to adapt this content, or to study other passages.

John wrote his gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20 v 30&31). As we study John together, keep that purpose in mind and ask, "How does this passage help me believe that Jesus is the Messiah?"

This study is for the passage from the morning service on 19th Feb. If people aren't able to be at the service then please encourage them to catch up online via YouTube or the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website.

This outline is the bare bones of the study: more thought needs to be given to the way you start and finish the evening, use (or don't use) the questions themselves, and think about the way this passage may affect your own group members. Think about the big ideas and how to apply them to everyday life. Here are three book titles you may find helpful to have available for study leaders through the series.

John for Everyone by Tom Wright, pub. SPCK, (short 'daily' chapters on each section)
The Message of John by Bruce Milne, pub. IVP (more in depth analysis and explanation)
John for You by Josh Moody, pub. Goodbook Co (sermon style & with focus on application)

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the source of true refreshment. Come to Him and drink.

WAY IN: When you want refreshment where do you turn first?

READ: This section can be done in 3 chunks John v 25 – 36, 37 – 39, 40 - 52

Context

DIG IN

1. What part of the text or sermon had the greatest impact on you? Did you learn anything new about Jesus? The Bible? God? *This is an open question to see if there are particular themes to explore which are on the minds of the group.*
2. What was it about Jesus that confused the people at the feast?
3. John uses the phrase 'my time has not yet come' a few times (John 2v4, John 7v6, John 7v30), what do you think this 'time' is? What does the waiting suggest about Jesus ministry?
4. Can you trace through the three sections the way the crowd reacts to Jesus? How would you describe each group?

LIVE IT OUT

1. What assumptions or preconceived ideas about Jesus hold you back from trusting him? (Do you assume he is boring? Do you assume he will ask too much of you? Do you assume he will not answer you? Do you assume...). How can you challenge those assumptions?
2. What preconceived ideas are keeping your friends away from exploring Jesus? How can you dismantle those?
3. How do experience refreshment and the Holy Spirit flowing in your life?
4. In what ways would you like to see the refreshing work of God on your Frontline? How might that flow out from you in words, attitudes, actions?

PRAYER

Pray for the refreshment of the Holy Spirit flowing in your life (see the prayers in Ephesians 1:15 – 17 / 3:14 - 17 if you'd like a pattern of praying this for others)

Some background / context:

Jesus is speaking at the festival of Tabernacles when, each day for seven days, water is drawn from the Pool of Siloam on the edge of the city of Jerusalem. This water is taken into the temple and poured over the altar. This ceremony reminded the people of God's provision of water when the Israelites wandered in the wilderness (Exodus 17:1-7). He is also echoing the invitation of Isaiah 12:2&3 of the 'Day of the Lord', when God will reign in justice and peace. Jesus is using familiar images from the Old Testament and then making it clear that HE has come to be the true fulfilment of that image.

This is a pattern in John's gospel of actions from Israel's past given new and much richer meaning in Jesus.