

the gospel of

JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters 5-10 of John's Gospel. John shows us that He is the One. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the One with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the One with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the One who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

THE ONE WE MISSED

Read the text: John 7:1-36 (*vs. 14-24 & 28-29 included below*)

About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the

Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me."

In today's story, we see how four different groups of people all missed Jesus. God Himself walks right into the middle of their party, sets up his tent, and they miss him. Our charge, as hearer's of this Word, is to find ourselves within the characters of the story and learn from them so that we don't miss Jesus ourselves. Let's look at these four groups; The Brothers, The Skeptics, The Religious Leaders, and The Curious Crowd; and see how they missed Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. In vs. 1-9, *The Brothers* want the *sensational Jesus*, who woos and wows a crowd. If He really was the Messiah, the Brothers wanted Jesus to be more attractive. Yet, Jesus tells them that His message of truth will not win the crowd, but will often offend the crowd. Are there ways you have stopped following the real Jesus in order to try to make Him more attractive and less offensive to our world? If so, what does that look like and why do you do this?
2. In vs. 10-13 & 27-29, *The Skeptics* miss Jesus because they think they know better. They were judging by appearances using preconceived notions of who & how the Christ was to

be and anything that didn't fit their paradigm was rejected. When you approach Jesus, what expectations or preconceived ideas do you bring with you? What has formed these expectations or ideas? How can you lay these down and approach Jesus with a humble heart?

3. In vs. 14-23 & 32-36, *The Religious Leaders* miss Jesus because He disrupted the power structures they benefited from and challenged their comforts. Where in your life does Jesus challenge your comfort? Is there any part of your life, that if Jesus were to challenge, you would say He had gone too far? Is there any part of your life that is "off-limits" to Jesus' authority?
4. In vs. 26-26 & 31, *The Curious Crowd* missed Jesus because they were afraid of what others would think of them if they stepped out in faith. Do you fear stepping out in faith to follow Jesus because you're worried about what others will think? Who do you fear the most? Jesus or others? What does this reveal about how you view Jesus?
5. Do you see yourself in any of these four groups of people more than the others? Why do you think that is? Will you humbly listen to Jesus and let Him tell you who He really is?