

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.

PART 6: THE ONE WHO GIVES THE SPIRIT

Read the text: John 7:37-52 (*vs. 37-44 included below*)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

It is the last day of the Feast of Booths and everyone is gathered at the Temple remembering God's promise to pour out His Spirit on His people and how He had provided water for them in the wilderness. The ceremonies they perform during this feast remind them of their communal thirst for God to meet their need and keep His promises like He did in the wilderness. It's in this context that Jesus stands up and says, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Jesus' words proclaim that all who come to Him will have their deepest longings satisfied as He pours out His Spirit into our lives and then through our lives to others.

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. Do you feel thirsty? How and where are you thirsty? What need and longing lies underneath this thirst? Take your time with this question to really explore the needs and longings that each of you feel.
2. Pastor Jeff shared that the prerequisite for receiving is needing. If you don't feel your need, or thirst, then you may not receive the water of life. Have you learned to ignore or minimize your need, acting as if you're okay? Why do you think that is?
3. What have you been looking to in order to quench your thirst? Try to be as tangible and specific as you can.

4. Jesus' promise to give us living water and quench our thirst was fulfilled through giving His Spirit to fill us and empower us. Have you been filled with the Spirit? Have you drunk deeply from the water of life without any attempt to control it, but instead submitted to the Spirit's leading for your whole life? What fruit of the Spirit do you see showing up in your life?

5. What does it tangibly look like to drink from the fountain of living water? How do you tangibly pursue this? Try to be as specific as you can.