

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Waiting on Will” (pt. 3) – 8/3/2014

**Scripture:** John 7:25-52

**Bottom Line:** God empowers us through the Holy Spirit to do his will.

**INTRODUCTION:** Does God's will seem like a daunting thing? For some it may be quite difficult to think about. How could I (a messed up, sinful human being) ever complete God's will. This is why Christians are thankful for God's provision in sending the Holy Spirit to produce redemption in our lives. So we can be confident that we can do God's will because his Spirit gives us strength.

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

### Read John 7:25-36

The Feast of Booths (Jn. 7:2) was an annual celebration remembering how God had been faithful to the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Israelites celebrated this by living in leafy shelters for 7 days to symbolize a temporary dwelling place. The Feast of Booths was also a time of thankfulness for God's current provision in the harvest.

How do you celebrate God's past and present provision in your life?

### Read John 7:37-52

What did Jesus mean when he said that “out of his heart will flow rivers of living water?”

- He means that the Holy Spirit will indwell every believer (Eph. 1:13-14) and change their hearts from evil (Matt. 15:19-20) to good. The result of the indwelling Holy Spirit is that Christians will bless others.

## UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

Can you see the Holy Spirit changing you?

- Think about your desires. Have they changed since you have been walking with Christ? Do they now reflect Jesus and his character more than when you first started following him. The truth is that the longer we walk with Jesus the more we will desire to leave sin behind in our lives and please him. The opposite is also truth, if we neglect our relationship with God, then we may begin to desire and reflect the world more than Jesus.

Can you see the Holy Spirit using you to bless others?

- We often forget that God gave people in the church different spiritual gifts not so that they could show off but rather so they could bless one another. My spiritual gifts were given to me in order that I might bless you. The same is also truth for your spiritual gifts. The more we draw near to Christ, the more he will change us and we will begin to want to bless people.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Who is Jesus to you?

- Was he just a good man that lived in Galilee? Was he just a Prophet that spoke wisdom and his teachings should be imitated? Is he the long awaited Messiah who forgives our sin and reconciles us back to a right relationship with God?

Our world today is just as confused about Jesus' identity as this crowd was in John 7. However, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, you can bless others and this will result in Christians moving toward maturity in Christ and non-Christians being attracted to Jesus for the first time.

How do I let the Holy Spirit use me to bless others?

- Pray
- Find out what you are passionate about and seek to serve God by serving others in that way
- Ask for advice from friends and church leaders