

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 7:1-13

Ice-breaker: What is your favorite holiday, and why?

Review: What significant events or teachings took place in John 6?

DISCUSSION 1: SEEKING GLORY

1. From what Jesus' brothers say in 7:3-4, what might their words reveal about the way most people think about wanting to be seen, receive credit, or seek glory? How is this agenda and way of thinking different from Jesus in 7:6-8?
2. Thinking back through John's Gospel, what other examples of John the Baptist and Jesus demonstrate a posture of humility rather than seeking glory?
3. What are ways right now you're tempted to seek your own glory or your agenda rather than living for God's glory, including where you put yourself before others?
4. How can you put on humility and a God-centered mindset this week? Are there any times or areas over which you might need to pray or rehearse "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease"?

DISCUSSION 2: OF THE WORLD

1. In John 7:7, Jesus says the world hates him because he testifies that its works are evil. What are other reasons in John's Gospel people rejected Jesus or even wanted to kill him?
2. Read John 1:10-12; 8:22-24; 15:18, 23-24; 17:14-16; 1 John 3:13; 4:5; 5:19. What are some characteristics of the world? What is different about Christians that makes them not "of the world"?
3. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What are ways we might discern if we are living "of the world" or "loving the things of the world"? How might this help us be on guard against temptation and sin in our own life?
4. What are worldly things—some might be sinful while others might be neutral or good things—that might tempt us away from Christ, or at least distract us from loving him and pursuing him?
5. Jesus comes to the world and fully lives in it among sinners: loving them, eating with them, showing grace to them, and sharing truth with them. And yet, he never gives in to the agenda, values, beliefs, or loves of the world. How might we follow Jesus' example of fully living in the world for the good of the world without being "of the world"? How are you personally trying to live this out?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Why did many of the people in Jesus' day reject him? Why might people not believe in Jesus today?
2. If we are followers of Jesus, and the world rejected him, will we at times be rejected because we follow him? How should we respond when the world rejects us because of Christ?

APPLICATION

- **Group:** Have everyone share which is a bigger challenge for them during this season: being tempted to seek their own agenda and pursue their own glory, or wanting to be embraced by and live in the things of the world. In other words, is your bigger battle right now worldliness or pride and self-centeredness? Provide space for people to share and then pray for one another over these things. Find ways to remind one another this week of how the gospel speaks into these areas and encourage one another to pursue holiness and Christ-likeness.
- **Individual:** Write down 3-5 areas you're tempted to pursue your own agenda or seek your own glory rather than God's. What is the temptation in each of these areas? What are the root issues in your heart? Then write down next to each one what you need to remember and believe so you can live with a mindset that says, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Feast of Booths (Tabernacles):** Ex. 23:16; Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-38; 16:13-15; 31:10-13; Deut. 16:13-15; Neh. 8:17-18; John 8:12.
- **Water in the Desert:** Ex. 17:1-7; Num. 20:1-11; Deut. 8:15; Neh. 9:15, 20; Ps. 78:15-20; 107:35; Is. 48:21; Rev. 21:6.
- **"The Feast of Booths"** at Ligonier.org