



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Confusion Over Christ

TEXT: John 7:1-52

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Not long ago I had a series of conversations with a young man about Jesus Christ and why faith in him is so important. At first, the young man was interested. He was open to listen to God's Word and to consider Christ's claims. As time went on, however, he became more and more hostile to Christ. Finally, he told me that he didn't want to pursue his investigation any further. He had decided to reject Christ and his offer of salvation.

That is precisely the pattern that John traces in his Gospel. In the early chapters, men and women responded to Jesus with belief. Then some of those who were following him turned away. Now open warfare breaks out between Jesus and his enemies-and yet, some still seek the truth. This chapter will help you respond positively to the wide variety of attitudes toward Jesus today.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had to work with someone who disliked or even hated you? What was it like to face that person every day? (Or what do you think it would be like?)
2. Read John 7:1-13. The first blast of hostility against Jesus comes from his own family. How would you characterize the statements made by Jesus' brothers?
3. Why do you think Jesus waits to go to Jerusalem until after his brothers have left (v. 10)?
4. What counsel would you give a believer who faces spiritual opposition from his or her family?
5. Read John 7:14-52. When Jesus makes his presence in Jerusalem known, people begin to challenge the origin (and, therefore, the authority) of his teaching. According to Jesus, how can we verify the truth of his teaching (v. 16-18)?
6. What other opinions or questions do people have about Jesus in verses 20-36? - How does Jesus respond to each one?

7. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, large vats of water were poured out on the pavement of the temple court as a reminder of God's provision of water in the wilderness. With that custom in mind, how would you explain the significance of Jesus' remarks in verses 37-39? - To what extent has Christ been a continual source of spiritual refreshment for you? Why or why not?

8. Throughout the chapter John gives us a sampling of various reactions to Jesus. Identify some of the reactions of various people and explain why you think they reacted the way they did.

9. Which of the opinions you have identified in this chapter are still expressed today, and in what way?

10. Based on Jesus' example, what should our response be to such reactions as Christians?