SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY DEC 31

John 7 · week 7 of 21

Rivers of Living Water · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 7 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Dec 28
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Dec 29
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Dec 30
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 7 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Dec 31 (New Year's Eve)

KEY VERSE

JOHN 7:37–38 · NASB

"Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

At the Feast of Booths everyone has an opinion about Jesus: His brothers, the crowds, the rulers, the temple police. Watch the arguments pile up, and then watch Jesus stand and cry out.

John 7 *Rivers of Living Water*

KEY VERSE 7:37–38

Theme of the chapter. Jesus lives on His Father's timetable, teaches the Father's words, and offers Himself to anyone who is thirsty. He is the source of the Spirit's rivers of living water. Everyone must decide about Him, and the crowd divides, but the man who is willing to do God's will comes to know the truth.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

time	**3**	vv. 6 (×2), 8
seek / seeking	**8**	vv. 1, 11, 18, 19, 25, 30, 34, 36
believe / believing / believed / believes	**5**	vv. 5, 31, 38, 39, 48
teaching	**3**	vv. 16, 17, 28
sent	**6**	vv. 16, 18, 28, 29, 32, 33
Christ	**6**	vv. 26, 27, 31, 41 (×2), 42

JOHN 7:1–13 The Brothers and the Time

1 OBSERVE *What do Jesus' brothers urge Him to do, and what does John say about them (7:3–5)?*

> Go to Judea and show Himself to the world (7:3–4). "Not even His brothers were believing in Him" (7:5).

2 INTERPRET *Jesus says, "My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune" (7:6). What is the difference between His time and theirs?*

> They wanted a public show on their schedule. He would go only when His Father's time came, and then quietly (7:10). Guzik: "God's timing is an important expression of His will."

3 APPLY *His brothers did not believe in John 7, but later they were praying with the church (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor 15:7). Who in your family are you tempted to give up on?*

> Personal. Unbelief in John 7 was not the end of the story for His brothers.

JOHN 7:14–24 Whose Teaching

4 OBSERVE *What surprises the Jews about Jesus' teaching, and what does He say it is (7:15–16)?*

> "How has this man become learned, having never been educated?" (7:15). "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me" (7:16).

5 INTERPRET *Read 7:17 carefully. According to Jesus, what is the key to knowing whether His teaching is from God?*

> A willing heart: "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching." Unbelief is usually a problem of willingness, not information. Henry: "Those who resemble God are most likely to understand him."

6 OBSERVE *What is Jesus' argument from circumcision on the Sabbath (7:22–23), and what command does He give (7:24)?*

> If a man may be circumcised on the Sabbath so the Law is not broken, how can they be angry that He made "an entire man well" on the Sabbath? "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (7:24).

7 APPLY *Where are you waiting to understand before you will obey? What would it look like to turn 7:17 around this week?*

> Personal. The study's truth to live in: obedience before understanding.

JOHN 7:25–36 Where Is He From?

8 OBSERVE *What do the people of Jerusalem think they know about Jesus (7:27)? How does He answer (7:28–29)?*

> "We know where this man is from." Jesus says He has not come of Himself; He is from the One who sent Him, whom they do not know (7:28–29).

9 OBSERVE *Why could no one seize Him (7:30)?*

> "Because His hour had not yet come" (7:30).

10 INTERPRET *The crowd says no one will know where the Christ is from (7:27), and also that the Christ comes from Bethlehem (7:42). What does John's reader know that the crowd does not?*

> Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Matt 2:1), and His true origin is the Father (7:29). John lets the irony stand.

JOHN 7:37–39 The Cry

11 OBSERVE *When does Jesus speak, how does He speak, and what does He offer (7:37–38)?*

> "On the last day, the great day of the feast," He "stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink'" (7:37). Rivers of living water will flow from the innermost being of the one who believes (7:38).

12 INTERPRET *What does John say the living water is, and why was it not yet given (7:39)?*

> "This He spoke of the Spirit." The Spirit "was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." The promised outpouring waited for the cross, resurrection and ascension (Acts 2:33).

13 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Sproul pictures the cry coming "while the Jews are pouring the water out, remembering the water that came from the rock." Henry: "Believers drink of a rock in them, Christ in them." What was Jesus saying about the feast's ceremony?*

> In the middle of the feast's remembering, He stood and said the water is Him. The rock and the water pointed to Him.

14 APPLY *Jesus said "rivers," not a trickle. Where is your spiritual life dry, and what keeps you from coming to drink?*

> Personal. The command is simple: come and drink.

JOHN 7:40–53 Division

15 OBSERVE *What did different people in the crowd say about Jesus (7:40–42), and what was the result (7:43)?*

> Some said, "This certainly is the Prophet." Others, "This is the Christ." Others asked whether the Christ comes from Galilee. "So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him" (7:43).

16 OBSERVE *Why did the officers come back without Jesus (7:45–46)?*

> "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks" (7:46).

17 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Henry: "Facts, and not faces, must be known in judgment." What did Nicodemus ask (7:50–51), what did it cost him (7:52), and where is he by 19:39?*

> "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" They mocked him: "You are not also from Galilee, are you?" By 19:39 he is bringing spices to Jesus' burial.

18 APPLY *Nicodemus took one small, costly step in the open. What small step of open loyalty to Jesus do you need to take?*

> Personal. The study's example: Nicodemus' small step.

WORD STUDY

19 WORD *skēnopēgia (G4634), tent-pitching; the Feast of Booths. The feast name (7:2) shares a root with "dwelt" (pitched His tent) in 1:14. What does the feast remember, and how does Jesus fulfill it?*

> Israel living in booths in the wilderness, where God gave water from the rock. The Word who pitched His tent among us offers living water.

20 WORD *schisma (G4978), a tear, a split. John uses this word three times, always of people dividing over Jesus (7:43; 9:16; 10:19). Why does Jesus always divide a crowd?*

> Because no one can stay neutral about who He is. He is either from God or He is not.

ACTS 17:11

The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

Season 2, Episode 5, "Spirit" — the closest episode; John 7 is not dramatized

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Read 7:10, 14. How did Jesus go up to the feast, and when did He begin to teach? How does the show picture His time in Jerusalem?

> He went up secretly, not publicly, and began teaching in the middle of the feast. The show has Him in Jerusalem the whole week.

C2 OBSERVE

Read 7:50–51. What does Nicodemus say to the council, and how does the show use him?

> He asks whether their Law judges a man before hearing him. In the show, Nicodemus stalls the report against Jesus, an echo of this verse.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 7 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.