**Faith Foundations 2024-2025**

**The Gospel of John (Part 1)**

**Session 16—John 7:1-24**

**After recounting Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the five thousand and lengthy “bread of life” discourse, John’s Gospel shifts to a new episode in Jesus’ ministry. The next four chapters of the Gospel form one long continuous narrative of Jesus’ actions in Jerusalem during and after the Feast of Booths. Some of the time He was confronting His enemies, other times He was speaking long monologues about His person and work, and at least one time He performed a significant healing miracle. Regardless of what exactly Jesus was doing at any particular time, though, one thing was clear: He was indeed the Son of God, and His words and deeds testified to that fact.**

**1.) Read John 7:1-9. Where was Jesus journeying at this time? Why was He there and not elsewhere?**

**2.) What did Jesus’ brothers want Him to do?**

**3.) What was the Feast of Booths (see Leviticus 23:33-43)?**

**4.) Why were Jesus’ brothers so insistent that He go to the feast? What did they think that would show about Him?**

**5.) What did Jesus mean when He told His brothers that His “time had not yet come?” What did He mean that their “time is always here?”**

**6.) Why can the world not hate Jesus’ brothers? Why will it always hate Him?**

**7.) What reason did Jesus ultimately give for not attending the feast? What did He mean by this?**

**8.) Read John 7:10-13. What did Jesus end up doing after His brothers left?**

**9.) What were many of the people saying about Jesus? Did they say these things openly? Why or why not?**

**10.) Read John 7:14-24. What did Jesus do during the feast? Why were the Jews surprised by Him?**

**11.) From whom did Jesus actually “learn” His teachings? How would a person recognize this about Him?**

**12.) How does Jesus contrast Himself with others who speak on their own authority? What does Jesus want, and what do the others want?**

**13.) How does Jesus accuse the Jews of hypocrisy in their stated desire to keep the Law of Moses?**

**14.) What question does Jesus ask the Jews in verse 19? How do the Jews respond, and why?**

**15.) What is the “one work” to which Jesus refers in verses 21 and 23? Why were the Jews angered by this work?**

**16.) How does Jesus use the example of circumcision on the Sabbath to show the Jews’ hypocrisy? Why was the work Jesus did more important than circumcision?**

**17.) How does Jesus encourage the Jews to make judgments about Him (and anything in general)? Were they doing this, or were they doing the opposite?**

**Again, the Jews were not able to see past the letter of the Law to the spirit behind it. God had given the Sabbath to the Jews as a gift, but the contemporary Jewish leaders were treating it more as a burden that needed to be borne. Consequently, they were angered by Jesus’ healing miracles on the Sabbath, when really the Sabbath was the best time for such a miracle to occur! They, however, could not see this, and so they continued to oppose Jesus and His ministry. In the next several lessons, we will see how Jesus continued this conversation and convincingly demonstrated the misguidedness of His enemies.**