



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of March 20, 2022

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*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.*

### Connect

- Who is the best teacher you have ever had? What did they teach? What made them excellent?

### The Context

Jesus came to be a different kind of king than the people wanted or expected. He did not come to be a conquering general or political ruler, but a king who would give his life for the world (as prophesied in Isaiah 53). Jesus became our sacrifice so that we could receive forgiveness and have a relationship with God. The proper response to Jesus, even in the midst of difficult teaching, is to follow Jesus for who he truly is, rather than what we may want him to be. In today's passage, Jesus' brothers try to get Him to meet their expectations, however, He was here to do something totally different. Jesus lived with a counter cultural schedule from the world. We also learn that the way of Jesus is counter cultural to the world. We as His followers are called to do the same - not in our own power - but in the power of the resurrected Jesus. We are able to be what He desires us to be by deepening our relationship with Him, and understanding His Kingdom life and our part in it.

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

#### **John 7:1-13** NIV

"After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him. 6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. 8 You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. 10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. 11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?" 12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." 13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders."

## Discuss

1. If someone were to approach you on the street and ask you, "Who is Jesus?" how would you respond? How do you think most people in America would respond to that same question?
2. Why is it important that we understand who Jesus is and what he has done for the world?
3. John records that the Feast of Tabernacles (also known as the Feast of Booths) was at hand. What was the Feast about? Read [Deut. 16:13-17, Leviticus 23:42-43](#).
4. Do you take time to pause and remember and reflect on how God has provided for you and led you? What specific time could you set aside to do this?
5. Why were Jesus' brothers urging him to go to the feast? What do they assume about Jesus' motivation? Why? How did Jesus respond to his brothers' challenge to go to Judea? (John 7:6-8)
6. When Jesus talks about "his hour" (verse 6) what is he referring to? (If helpful Read [John 2:4, 8:20, 12:23, 13:1, & 17:1](#)) Why do you think Jesus waited to go to Jerusalem until later?
7. Why does the world hate Jesus and those who follow Jesus? Have you experienced this kind of hatred (persecution) in your life?
8. Why did people not speak openly about Jesus? (John 7:12-13). Does fear keep people from speaking openly about Jesus today? What are some ways that we can help each other overcome that fear?
9. What are you currently doing to help people around you form a proper understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done?
10. Read and discuss the quote below from John Mark Comer.

*"Our time is our life, and our attention is the doorway to our hearts...Because what you give your attention to is the person you become. Put another way: the mind is the portal to the soul, and what you fill your mind with will shape the trajectory of your character. In the end, your life is no more than the sum of what you gave your attention to. That bodes well for those apprentices of Jesus who give the bulk of their attention to him and to all that is good, beautiful, and true in his world. But not for those who give their attention to the 24-7 news cycle of outrage and anxiety and emotion-charged drama or the nonstop feed of celebrity gossip, titillation, and cultural drivel. (As if we "give" it in the first place; much of it is stolen by a clever algorithm out to monetize our precious attention.) But again: we become what we give our attention to, for better or worse." - John Mark Comer, The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*

11. Jesus was the Master at staying on task with His schedule, life, and mission. What gets in the way of us staying on mission? How can we improve or amplify staying on mission in our lives?

## Challenge

12. Many of us know people who are confused about Jesus. For you, make a commitment to pray for someone you know that is confused. Then commit to invite this person for coffee and begin sharing with them about who Jesus really is and the life that he offers to them.

**End Your Group Time in Prayer**