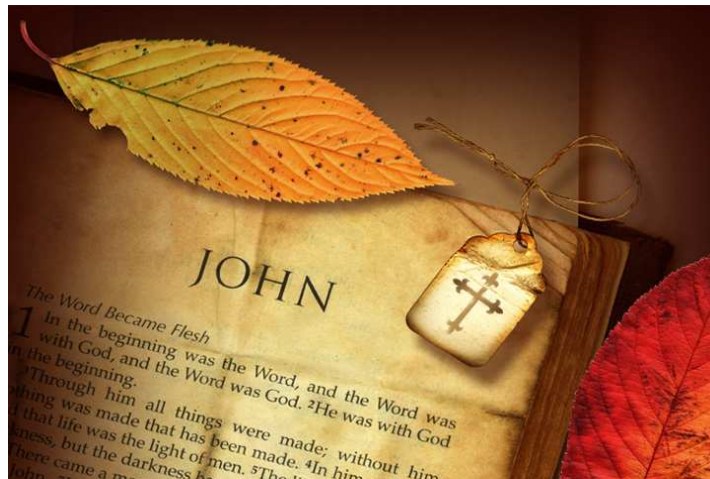


Fall 2010 Sermon Series:

# *The Gospel of John*

## *Week #7*

### Discussion Guide



October 23/24, 2010

### *“Gracious People”*

Pastor Bruce Humphrey  
1 Kings 19:11-12, John 7:1-10

<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

**Next week:** October 30/31  
*“Mary’s Devotion”* Pastor Bruce Humphrey  
Luke 10:38-42, John 12:1-8

***The Gospel of John***  
***Week #7***

**Scripture References**

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

**1 Kings 19:11-12**

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

*Notes:*

**John 7:1-10**

After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. <sup>3</sup> So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; <sup>4</sup> for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> (For not even his brothers believed in him.) <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> Go to the festival yourselves. I am not going to this festival, for my time has not yet fully come." <sup>9</sup> After saying this, he remained in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret.

*Notes:*

## **The Gospel of John Week #7**

### **Discussion Guide**

#### **Scripture**

1. Read the 1 Kings 19:11-12 scripture. The Lord is speaking to Elijah. At what place in the scripture does God appear?
2. Why is it important that Elijah NOT see the Lord in the wind, earthquake or fire?
3. What does this say to you about where to look for God's voice?
4. Read the John 7:1-10 scripture, and, for further insight:

*The prominent Jews of Judea are still furious at Jesus for what He said and did in Jerusalem over a year ago: He not only worked on the Sabbath, but He even claimed the right to do so because he was equal with God! For this, the Jewish leaders want Him dead.*

*But Jesus has not appeared in Judea since that confrontation. Instead, He has worked His miracles and proclaimed His shocking teaching in Galilee. He has made a name for Himself in those parts, but He and His brothers both know that what happens in Galilee is not what counts. Someone who claims to be the Messiah must prove His claim before the whole nation, and that means in the capital city, not in some provincial villages.*

*Six months have passed since the miraculous feeding. Jesus has spent long enough in Galilee – His hour is coming. But the hour has not yet come. The Father has appointed the moment of Jesus' death, and Jesus weighs every action to fit that timing.*

*[this Feast] was held when the year's harvest was gathered in, so it celebrated first of all the people's thanks for a good harvest. Second, it commemorated God's care for Israel during the desert wandering. For this reason, the pilgrims lived for the week in tents (huts, booths, tabernacles) made of branches. adapted from Life Changes: the book of John, Navpress 1987.*

5. What speculations and opinions are circulating among the people in Jerusalem before Jesus arrives for the Feast?
6. Why does Jesus want his arrival in Jerusalem to be a secret?
7. Why doesn't he tell his brothers he is coming?
8. What is it that his brothers don't understand?

#### **Sermon**

Key Words: **respectfulness – thoughtfulness – graciousness – sensitivity**

9. Why did Jesus go to the festival even though he disagreed with his brothers' reasoning?
10. What traditional values did Jesus uphold by attending the festival?
11. The Pharisees did not think Jesus was being gracious, they thought he was culturally and spiritually impolite. Why did Jesus make such an effort to model a different, seemingly impolite, behavior?
12. How was Jesus' behavior in John 7:1-10 a model for graciousness toward his brothers? Toward the people in Jerusalem? Toward the Pharisees?
13. What does this say to you about how much Jesus loves his brothers? About how much Jesus loves you?

**The Gospel of John**  
**Week #7**

**Life Applications**

**Personal:**

1. Where do you hear God's voice?
2. As we approach the traditional holiday season what cultural value is celebrated in our American culture on Thanksgiving?
3. Think about some of your personal or family Thanksgiving traditions. Which of these traditions do you think would make Jesus smile? Why?

**Small Group:**

*"Whether the decline of civility is a result of our awareness of differing cultures or that we see how propriety changes from generation to generation, it seems clear that graciousness is on the decline today." Bruce Humphrey*

1. Do you agree with Pastor Bruce's statement? Discuss.
2. Share one thing you could do to demonstrate graciousness in your home or workplace.
3. Ask each person in the group to name one reason for rejecting Jesus that he or she has heard.
4. Compare the above reasons heard in today's culture with the reasons the prominent Jews in Jerusalem thought of. How are they similar? How are they different?

**Prayer:**

1. Praise God for fulfilling the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) by sending the Holy Spirit as the true living water that brings an abundant harvest.
2. Thank Jesus for satisfying your thirst.
3. Pray that, through Jesus' example of graciousness and sensitivity, you will be able to share the Gospel with others.



Further resources for study of the Gospel of John:  
*John – Life Change Series*, a NAVPRESS Bible Study.  
*Book of John*, Life Lessons with Max Lucado

Many other resources are available in the RBCPC Library – check it out!