SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

John

Chapter 7

Rivers of Living Water

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 7:37–38

"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.'""

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in John 7

At the Feast of Booths everybody had an opinion about Jesus, but on the great day He did not ask for an opinion — He called the thirsty to come and drink. This week, be honest about what you are thirsty for, and bring that thirst to Him instead of to the old wells.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the John study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

My Time Is Not Yet Here

READ · JOHN 7:1–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus' brothers want Him to do (vv. 3–4), and what does verse 5 say about them? How does Jesus answer them in verses 6–8?

REFLECT

"For not even His brothers were believing in Him" (v. 5). Who in your own family has watched your life up close and still doesn't believe? How does it help to know His brothers later prayed with the church (Acts 1:14)?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "My time is not yet here" (v. 6). Where are you pushing God to act on your schedule, and what would it look like to wait on His?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the name of one family member who doesn't yet believe. Pray for him or her by name today — and ask God for patience to wait on His time.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 7:37–38)

DAY 2 OF 5

My Teaching Is Not Mine

READ · JOHN 7:14–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What surprised the Jews about Jesus (v. 15)? According to verse 16, where did His teaching come from? What test does He give in verse 17?

REFLECT

"If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching" (v. 17). Is there something in God's Word you keep arguing with because you are not yet willing to obey it? What is it?

REFLECT

"Do not judge according to appearance" (v. 24). When have you judged a man by how he looked, talked or where he came from — or been judged that way yourself? What did it cost?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one thing you already know God wants you to do and do it today, before you understand it all. Then watch for the next light He gives.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 7:37–38)

DAY 3 OF 5

Where Is He From?

READ · JOHN 7:25–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the people of Jerusalem think they knew about Jesus (v. 27)? What does Jesus say about where He is really from (vv. 28–29)? Why could no one seize Him (v. 30)?

REFLECT

The crowd thought they knew all about Jesus because they knew His hometown (v. 27). Where have you settled for knowing about Jesus instead of knowing Him?

REFLECT

“No man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come” (v. 30). What situation are you facing where you need to trust that God, not other people, holds the clock?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell God one thing you are afraid others can do to you. Then thank Him out loud that your times are in His hand, just as Jesus’ hour was.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 7:37–38)

DAY 4 OF 5

If Anyone Is Thirsty

READ · JOHN 7:37–39

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

On what day did Jesus cry out (v. 37)? What does He invite people to do, and what does He promise in verse 38? According to verse 39, what is the living water?

REFLECT

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink" (v. 37). What are you really thirsty for right now — peace, rest, being wanted, being free? Where have you been trying to drink instead of coming to Jesus?

REFLECT

Jesus promised "rivers of living water" flowing out of the one who believes (v. 38). Who in your life is dry right now, and how could the Spirit flow through you to him this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

The next time the old craving hits, stop and say, "Lord, I'm thirsty," and come to Him first. Then reach out to one dry brother with a call, a text or a visit.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 7:37–38)

DAY 5 OF 5

Never Has a Man Spoken Like This

READ · JOHN 7:40–53

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the different things people said about Jesus in verses 40–42. What did the officers say when they came back without Him (v. 46)? What did Nicodemus ask (v. 51), and what happened to him (v. 52)?

REFLECT

"A division occurred in the crowd because of Him" (v. 43). Which group in this chapter sounds most like where you have been with Jesus — and where are you now?

REFLECT

Nicodemus asked one fair question in a room that was against Jesus, and he was mocked for it (vv. 50–52). Where do you need that kind of small, honest courage?

RESPOND — TODAY

Speak up for Jesus once this week in a place where it costs you something — even one sentence. Ask God beforehand for the courage of Nicodemus.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 7:37–38)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The officers were sent to arrest Jesus and came back saying, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks” (v. 46). What has Jesus said in His Word that stopped you in your tracks?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Jesus went up to the feast “not publicly, but as if, in secret” (v. 10), while His brothers wanted a show. Where are you tempted to want God to make a public display, and what might He be doing quietly instead?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

John says the living water is the Spirit, given after Jesus was glorified (v. 39). How have you seen the Spirit change your thirst since you came to Christ?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I am thirsty, and I have tried to drink from wells that left me drier, so today I come to You and ask…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · JOHN 7:37–38

"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.""