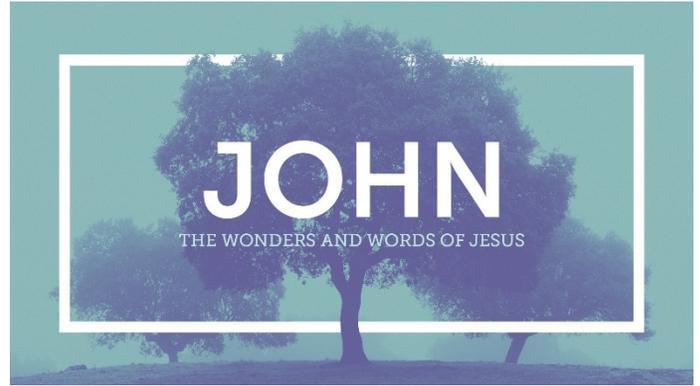


**This Week's Scripture: John 7:14-24 (Truth Comes from The Word)**

**Main Points Today:**

1. Trust in Jesus as the Word.
2. Trust and Share the Word for God's Glory
3. Trust the Word to Rightly Judge

**Introduction:** It has been said that we can't follow those we don't trust; we can't trust those we don't know; and we can't know those we don't have a relationship with. In Jesus's case, we can't have a relationship with him outside of reading God's Word. Quick honesty moment for the group: On a scale of 1-10 how would each of you rate your daily relationship with Jesus and God's Word AND what helps or hinders you most in your participation in that relationship?



**Discussion Point 1 (Trust in Jesus as the Word):**

We hear again about Jesus "as the Word". Discuss as a group how you reconcile to a new believer or someone just hearing about Jesus the terminology of the Word being scripture AND the Word being Jesus?

For better or worse, Jesus had the attention of those at the Festival of Booths with this teaching of scripture. Some were impressed and moved, others were skeptical and angered. What do you think was at the root of persuading people's emotions about Jesus (for or against)?

What benefit/advantage do we have by having absolute trust in Jesus as the Word of God?

**Discussion Point 2 (Trust and Share the Word for God's Glory):**

How does Jesus illustrate to those challenging him that there is integrity regarding his authority?

How can we apply what Jesus is telling us to our own lives and the sharing/defending of God's word with others?

It is in our human and sinful nature to seek self-recognition. We do it in our jobs, sports, online, etc. What do you do to check yourself and ensure that you apply your faith for His glory and not your own?

What are some signs that you or a fellow Christian might be manipulating your faith for personal gain or accolades?

**Discussion Point 3 (Trust the Word so you can Rightly Judge):**

None of us like to be judged. However, accountability is crucial in just about every aspect of our lives. How do you define the action to "Rightly Judge"?

What might move the needle from "Rightly Judging" to "Unfairly Judging"?

What are some things we should be judging and some things we probably shouldn't be judging others on? Why or why not?

How does our level of knowledge and trust in the Word affect our ability to rightly judge?

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**Living It Out**

So much discussed tonight that can be applied to our daily lives. However, looking at the opening discussion question and the final question of the night, what we see is an "accountability sandwich". We start by reflecting on our relationship with Jesus and how strong and regular it is, and end with how important it is to our spiritual integrity affects our actions in life and with others. In between both of those is a slew of situation and consequences that stem from both. That sandwich either tasted good tonight, or might have left you feeling like you should have eaten something else. ;-0)

If you are feeling good about your walk and your ability to discern in judging, then GREAT! Continue diving into God's word, reaching out to others and bringing Him glory. If by chance you are feeling a little guilty or know you need to commit a little more to God, don't be discouraged. Instead, use tonight's discussion as a reminder that God is always reaching out to you, inviting you to know him more and deeper. Simply make a new commitment to reading the Word every day, pray for His council and be amazed at the blessing he will bring you this week as a result of that choice and action.

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