

Small Group Discussion Guide – October 23, 2011

"Face2Face - Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time" ~ the Gospel of John

(Sermon notes from David Mathews)

Pendulum Swings: Pendulum swings, better known as icebreakers or getting started questions, are just a fun way to kickoff your small group time together by going from the not so serious to deeper connecting times.

As you begin your Small Group this week ... *"Unfinished sentences ..."*

- ✓ A great encourager in our small group is ...
- ✓ My favorite type of speaker is ...
- ✓ The best sermon that I ever heard was 'preached' by ...

"No One Ever Spoke Like Him"

Intro: Pray together

Read: John 7 together

Each week re-read John 20:30-31 as a reminder of John's purpose in writing this account of Jesus' life. "... so that you may believe... and that by believing you may have LIFE in his name."

This week as you read John 7, read it with this his (John's) purpose in mind and how this passage helps accomplish this purpose.

1. In John 7:1-9, the 'conflict' between Jesus and the Jews has escalated.
 - John 7:5 states that even his brothers did not believe in Him (Mark 6:3 notes the brothers by name).
 - What might explain their unbelief?
 - What was their motivation in trying to get him to attend the feast?
2. Jesus tells his brothers that he is not going to the feast, but then turns around later and goes (John 7:8-10).
 - Why did he do this – say one thing and do another?
 - Was he being deceitful in his response to his brothers?
3. According to John 7:15, the crowd(s) was amazed at his teaching.
 - Why and in what ways was the crowd amazed at his teaching (John 7:10-39)?
 - While Jesus was teaching in the, "the leading priests sent Temple guards to arrest Jesus (7:32), yet they fail in their mission (7:45,46).
 - What reason did the guard give for not arresting Jesus?
 - What words of Jesus (that are recorded in John 7) did they hear that made them state: "We have never heard anyone speak like this!?" (7:46 – NLT)
4. Water – "living water" – was the dominant theme on the last day of the feast as is recorded in John 7:37-39.
 - Discuss the power and the connection of the "rivers of living water from within" to the "living water" given by the Holy Spirit.
 - What, if any, is the significance of John 7:39 – "...the spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been glorified."?