



Small Group Notes - John 7:32-52 - Returning to His Father

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introductory Questions

If someone asked you 'why they should become a Christian' what reasons would you give?

Into God's Word - Read John 7:33-39

- 1. In these verses what do we learn about the Pharisees, both through Jesus' words and their own actions?*
- 2. In these verses what do we learn about Jesus'...*

...destination?

...His Mission? (what is he going to do, when and for whom)

...and His Identity?

The Jews clearly fail to understand what Jesus is claiming in his teaching on the last day of the festival. Jesus is claiming to be the one who fulfils all that the festival pointed towards - the great hope for God's people. The festival looked back to God's great rescue of his people in the desert as they travelled towards the promised land (giving them water from the rock to drink). At the same time the festival pointed forward towards a day when God would once again rescue his people, when God's Spirit would be poured out, as promised, in the last days.

Application

What different reasons do we have in the passage to thank God?

How might the promises of this passage impact our attitudes to the realities of day to day life this week?

In what different ways might this passage affect how we think about evangelism and reaching out to others?

Now Read John 7:40-52

Throughout this chapter we have seen many different confused responses to Jesus. List some of the confused responses we have seen.

- 3. In what ways do people in our day and age share the same confusion about Jesus?*
- 4. What has Jesus done to answer each of the confused responses?*

Application

In what ways do Jesus' answers lead you to praise and worship him?

Now spend time in prayer.

Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pray that others would come to know this 'water welling up to eternal life' for themselves.