



Connect Group study

Jesus was a 'crowd-splitter'. Some people loved Him and some people hated Him. This study looks at what people said about Him, and some of the things you can expect to experience as a follower of Jesus.

Read

Break down into pairs or small groups and read one of the following sections of John 7. Try and cover the whole chapter, taking one section per group.

John 7:1-13

John 7:14-24

John 7:25-44

John 7:45-53

Reflect

Q1. a. In your section of John 7, what did the people in the story say about Jesus? Write down what they said.

b. Get each sub-group to share with the whole group what they discovered.

Q2. Verse 43 to an extent summarises this whole chapter. What does it say and to what extent is this still true today? Explain your answer.

Q3. If you asked your friends what they thought about Jesus, what do you think they would say?

Q4. Jesus' life was characterised by His tendency to 'split the crowd'. Why do you think this was?

Q5. a. What sobering lesson did Jesus teach in John 15:18-21?

b. Why will the world treat Christians in this way according to these verses?

Respond

Q6. a. How do you typically react when you are misunderstood or persecuted for your faith in Jesus?

b. Read Matthew 5:11-12. Discuss what Jesus means and how this should encourage us as we live for Him.

Suggested memory verse(s):

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12 NIV)