

Sermon Bible Study Series

Title: **Thirsty For God**

Primary Text: **John 7:1-52**

Expanded Reading: John 4:10-14; 6:35; Nehemiah 9:15, 19-20; Isaiah 55:1-2; Ezekiel 47:1-9

Big Idea: Jesus alone can quench our spiritual thirst.

Engage

Name a time when you can remember being really thirsty. When you are really thirsty, what kind of drink quenches your thirst?

- a. **Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon?** (You may want to be pre-prepared with the main points to supplement if your group is not able to)
- b. **What stood out to you/challenged you/ made you think in the sermon?** (this question could be moved to the deepen section)

Learn

Read the Primary Text

1. As Jesus began to reveal His true identity as God's Son, public opinion began to turn against Him; the leaders in Jerusalem looked for a way to seize Jesus and kill Him. And yet, they did not touch Jesus, for "*His time had not yet come.*" **Read John 7:6, 8, 30.**

Mark Suggested that God's sovereignty and providence overshadowed Jesus' life, allowing Him to accomplish all that the Father purposed for Him. He also suggested that God's sovereignty and providence overshadow our lives in the same way. God is ever directing, sustaining, and protecting our lives so that we might become who He intends for us to become and to accomplish what He intends for us to accomplish.

How have you seen God's sovereignty and providence at work in your own life?

2. **Read John 7:37-39.** Jesus claims to be the source of living water (the One who can quench our spiritual thirst), but it is not the first time He made this kind of claim (**Read John 4:10-14 and 6:35**).

In fact, Jesus' claims don't come out of thin air, they are connected to promises God had already made throughout the Old Testament. Jesus is claiming to be the fulfillment (or to bring fulfillment) to these promises.

- Read Nehemiah 9:15, 19-20; Isaiah 55:1-2; Ezekiel 47:1-9

What is entailed in Jesus' promise of living water? What is He not promising? Do you find yourself thirsty for God these days? How has Jesus met you in your thirst?

3. In John 7:39, the apostle John inserts an explanatory comment; Jesus' statement about "living water" was a reference to the coming Holy Spirit—because He lives within believers, they can know ongoing spiritual life.

What is the Holy Spirit's role in the life of a Christian? In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence and power?

Deepen

What questions did you want to ask when listening to the sermon?

Leaders, allow people to wrestle with the text. Don't feel like you need to have all the answers, but in your preparation think about the questions that will arise and be prepared to point toward Jesus and the Scriptures for answers.

What Scripture passages might inform these unanswered questions?

Live

Spend some time praying for one another:

- for eyes to see the way that God's providence is at work in your life, shaping you, using you, etc;
- for the Spirit to awaken/deepen your thirst for God;