

Week 3.1 - Trust God's Timing

Small Group Lesson

“Trust God’s timing...His plan comes first, not what the world or you want.”

OBJECTIVE:

- John 7:1-13

EXPLORE:

(These are different commentary notes that can be used to explain the context to our students. Feel free to use your own.)

Context / Background / History

Jesus’ Location and Timing (John 7:1-2)

- Jesus stayed in Galilee instead of Judea because Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Him. This wasn’t cowardice, but a deliberate awareness of God’s perfect timing. His arrest and crucifixion had not yet come.
- The Feast of Tabernacles was a joyful, weeklong celebration in September or October. Families built temporary shelters to remember God’s faithfulness during Israel’s wilderness journey.

The Opposition of Jesus’ Brothers (John 7:3-5)

- Jesus’ brothers urged Him to go publicly to Jerusalem to show His works, reflecting worldly thinking.
- They didn’t yet believe in Him as Messiah. Their focus was on human approval rather than God’s plan.
- Cultural expectations assumed the Messiah would make Himself publicly known; Jesus’ true glory would only be revealed through the crucifixion.

Jesus’ Response: Different Worlds (John 7:6-9)

- Jesus said, “My time has not yet come”, showing submission to God’s perfect timing.
- Boldly confronting sin meant the world hated Him, whereas His brothers, aligned with society’s norms, would not face the same opposition.
- Going secretly demonstrated wisdom and courage. He acted boldly while avoiding unnecessary danger.

Jesus at the Feast (John 7:10-13)

- He went to the feast not publicly, avoiding the usual caravan. This was strategic, not deceptive.
- Public opinion was divided: some said He was good, others accused Him of deceiving.
- Speaking openly about Jesus was risky because of the religious authorities.

Takeaways for Students:

- God's timing is more important than public approval.
- Even close friends or family may not understand your faith journey.
- Bold faith may require courage, wisdom, and sometimes discretion.
- Standing for truth may cause division, but it shows commitment to God over the world.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

- Youtube Video - [John 7 Spoken Word](#)

3.1 lesson map

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Scripture (S)

- Read together! Encourage students to highlight or make note of anything that stands out to them.

Observation (O)

- Why did Jesus wait to go to Judea, and what does this show about His trust in God's timing?
- How did His brothers respond to His ministry, and what does that teach us about following God even when others don't understand?
- How did Jesus balance boldness and caution when He went to the Feast of Tabernacles?
- How do the people's reactions show the challenge of standing for God's truth?

Application (A)

- Where are you tempted to compromise your values because of peer pressure? How can you follow Jesus' example?
- Are there situations where you feel rushed to act? How can you wait for God's perfect timing?
- How can you act courageously but wisely when facing challenges to your faith?
- How do you respond when friends or family pressure you to do something against your faith?
- How can you stay faithful to God even when others don't understand or believe?

Prayer (P)

- Take a few moments to reflect on areas in your life where you feel pressure...from friends, family, or even yourself... to act before God's timing. This is a time to bring those things before Him and receive His guidance and strength.

Guided Prayer Prompts (students can pray silently, aloud, or in pairs):

- Ask God to show you where you might be rushing ahead of His plan.
- Pray for courage to stand firm in your faith, even when others don't understand.
- Pray for wisdom to act boldly but wisely in situations where you face pressure.
- Ask God to help you honor Him with your choices, words, and actions this week.

Optional Personal Reflection:

- Invite students to write or share one specific area where they want to trust God's timing this week.
- Encourage them to commit to one bold action aligned with God's plan.