



In the Flesh – John 7-9

February 4 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with an icebreaker, a Scripture reading, and prayer (25 minutes).

Begin your time together by sharing your highs and lows from the past week.

Next, spend some time reading out loud together the Scripture for this week: **John 7-9**. To get through this large chunk of Scripture, you might consider having people “popcorn” to one another so as to keep people’s attention. To do a “popcorn reading” simply have one person start and then after a couple verses (wherever they’d like really), have them say “Popcorn Joe” (or whomever they’d like). This is the prompt for the next person to begin reading. Repeat this process until the entirety of the text is read.

After reading, have someone pray for your group time together.

Discuss the Scripture and the sermon as a group (25 minutes).

Take a few moments to reflect on the following questions:

- Reflect on our time overall in the gospel of John. In what ways has the identity or work of Jesus surprised you or challenged you throughout the course of John’s gospel?
- Chad spent most of his sermon focused on John 9 with the man born blind. Regarding this man, there was a lot of conversation about his blindness being a result of either his own sin or his parents. Do you ever struggle with thinking that good things come to you because of right behavior and bad things come to you from bad behavior? How does this manifest itself in your life? Explain. What truths from this passage do you need to rest in to confront this mentality?

Side note: You might even stop and pray in the middle of group to affirm truth over anyone who needs it!

- In the sermon, it was also mentioned that “Whatever the enemy meant for evil...Jesus wants to use for good!” How does this fact display itself in the blind man’s story? Where have you seen this to be true of your own life?
- “The world won’t always like that you’re following Jesus, but what Jesus has for you is greater than the world.” That was one of Chad’s takeaways for us from this sermon. Do you ever experience this reality? How so? In what environments? How can this group pray right now for you in this? *Be sure to spend some time praying over anyone that expresses hardship over following Jesus.*
- As Chad mentioned as he started into his sermon on Sunday, many people were wondering “Who is this Jesus?” and “What are we to make of him?” What is one word you’d use to describe who Jesus is to you? What experiences and/or Scriptures brought you to choosing that one word? How does this story expand or challenge your view of Jesus’ identity?

Like last week, break into gendered groups for accountability, encouragement, and prayer (20 minutes).

- How is your prayer life? Are you prayerful? Are you enjoying prayer? Explain.
- How have the Scriptures been living in you lately?
- How have you been doing loving the people in your life this week? Spouse? Kids? Co-workers? Have you been unloving in any way?
- When did you last speak to someone else about your faith?
- Is Christ real to you?
- Where do you need encouragement in your faith?

As you wrap up, have each person pray for the person on their right – be sure to include in your prayer help for the things shared and God’s blessing to be on that person to live into what God has for them this upcoming week.

Finish with logistics and prayer (5 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study material available to help you walk through gospel of John series. You can find those devotionals at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Share any logistics that you need to with your group.
3. Finish your group session by sharing prayer requests and praying.