



John 7:40-52 – Confusion and Convictions

Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see. Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. Jesus made some big claims about himself. Sunday's talk suggested that, if we take Jesus' claims seriously, we'll come to see him either as a deceiver or as divine. Do you agree? Or can we 'sit on the fence' about Jesus?

Reminder of Sunday's talk: Jesus words' disclose him to us and draw us to him. Some hear his words, some face a choice whether to hear, and some refuse to hear.

2. Remarkably, the guards' reason for not arresting Jesus is: *no one ever spoke the way this man does* (v46). What does this tell us about Jesus' words?
3. 'On hearing his words' (v40) some realise that Jesus is the Messiah (v41)...
 - a. How can we get to know Jesus through his words?
 - b. What could that look like for us in practice?
 - c. Share what helps you to hear Jesus' words in the Bible and what you find challenging.
4. The people in v41-42 have a question about Jesus. Their question could lead them either to dismissing Jesus or to hearing him out and growing in trust...
 - a. Can you relate to having questions about Jesus and about trusting him?
 - b. In what different ways might we respond to our questions?
 - c. Why is it worth continuing to hear Jesus' words even when some of our questions remain unanswered?
5. The Pharisees do their best to suppress Jesus' words. And yet his words are still powerful – look at the guards, and Nicodemus! How does this encourage you to be bold in sharing Jesus' words, even when some are hostile?
6. If we're Christians, that's because Jesus has graciously disclosed himself to us and drawn us to himself by his words. How will you respond to him?

Respond to God's word in prayer

Share any answers to prayer you've seen since you last met

Take some time to pray for each other

Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."

(Taken from 'Lead' by Paul Tripp, p42)