

Preparation Questions John 7.1-52
Out of this world

Opener: Bring to mind some of the different negative assessments of Jesus that you've heard friends, colleagues, family, the media express about Jesus. How is your confidence in Jesus affected when you hear these different assessments of him?

Text1: Verses 1-10 set the scene for the rest of chapter 7 and chapter 8. How do these verses remind us of and address the big issues and questions we've been thinking about in chapters 5 & 6? (ie questions about Jesus' identity and mission; and the reaction of the Jews and reason for it?) (verses 1-2 & 5-8 are particularly helpful for this.)

Text2: Skim over the whole of chapter 7: describe the atmosphere in Jerusalem (eg vs12, 13, 32, 43) and notice the different responses that Jesus is provoking amongst the people of Jerusalem. (*Also, notice what happens whenever somebody pipes up with a slightly positive comment.*) How does v24 help us understand how those in Jerusalem are coming to their conclusions about Jesus?

Text3: Fill in the table:

	What sparks confusion/hostility?	What does Jesus show us about himself and his opponents? What's the contrast between Jesus and his detractors?	What are the underlying problems in the people that are exposed?
vv11-31 'from God'	eg vs 11,15,27	eg vs 16-19, 21-24, 25-30	
Vv32-52 'going to God'	eg vs 35-36, 38,41	eg vs 33-34, 37-38	

Text 4: What is so amazing about Jesus' promise in v37 – 39? How does this give us extra reason to keep listening to Jesus? (How does this fit with 6v63?)

Sum up: What big reasons have we been given to dismiss the negative conclusions of those in Jerusalem and to instead come to Jesus?

One to chew on: How do we see the mixed response of vs 40 – 52 today? How has this chapter encouraged us to respond when we hear the world, including devout looking religious people, deny and decry Jesus' identity and the need for his rescue mission?