

## 11/15/20 SEED Group Questions

### “The Unbelieving Brothers”

John 7:1-9

#### Opening Questions:

1. In regard to the message: Have you ever had a sibling that was not understood by the rest of the family? Why do you think that was/is?
2. Have two or three give testimonies of either how they came to know the Lord or what brought them to Walnut Creek Baptist Church.
3. In regard to this morning’s message, would you consider yourself a person who waits on the Lord or someone who speeds ahead believing God will be there when you arrive? Give examples.
4. John 7:1-2 talks about the Festival of Tabernacles. It was the most exciting of all the feast days. The brothers did not want to miss out on the event. Are you the type of person that desires to be at the fun events or you a recluse that would just soon sit home and read a book? If married, does your spouse agree with your answer?
5. The incredible fact is that these brothers of Jesus his had lived in the same Nazareth home and failed to see that He was anything more than an ordinary human being. Why is it difficult for unsaved family to accept the fact that you have become a Christian?

#### Into the Message:

1. In John 7:1-3 the brothers wanted Jesus to go to the festival right way. We know from the text it was not the right time. Why is being on God’s time clock important? What is the danger of pushing ahead before the appropriate time? Do you have an example?
2. In the midst of hardships, we tend to feel our prayers and cries to God aren’t being heard because we may not see an immediate change in our situations. Do you think the brothers knew Jesus’ life would be in danger if he went to the festival immediately?
3. John 7:3–6 says, *His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.*

*For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.*

How is this text sarcastic and demeaning?

4. In John 7:5 we find a complete failure on Jesus' brothers part to understand who Jesus really is. How do we do that to others? (Hint - look at the tone of vs 4)
5. His brothers seemed to imply that the Lord was looking for publicity. Why else was He performing all these miracles in Galilee if He did not want to become famous? "Now is Your big opportunity," they say in effect. The brothers had a different agenda for Jesus that He had for himself. How do we do that to others? Do we sometimes assume what God wants for us and others?
6. In John 7:7-9 Jesus gives a frank summary of where His brothers stood vs. where He was: *The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.*

The text indicates the brother's testimony was not an offense to the world. What does that mean? How do we have testimony that is offensive to the world without alienating the very people we are to reach?

7. Give specific examples of someone who claims to be Christian but hurts the cause of Christ in word or action? How can we go overboard in being an offense to the world?
8. Give your thoughts on the analogy used this morning comparing Christians to the world:  
*Christians are like the gulf stream, which is in the ocean and yet not part of it. This mysterious current defies the mighty Atlantic, ignores its tides, and flows steadily upon its course. Its color is different, being a deeper blue. Its temperature is different, being warmer. Its direction is different, being from south to north. It is in the ocean, and yet it is not part of it.*