

“Festivals & Celebrations”

Psalm 67

John 5: 1-9

- Re-read the Scriptures together as a group.
- What is your favorite celebration?
- JD talked about people in the Bible that we regularly “Boo” when they appear.
 - Who do you regularly boo, when you read their story?
 - Why?
- The man who sat for 38 years believing a lie about the pool at Bethesda, sat hoping to be healed “magically”.
 - How are we like that man?
 - Why do we chase these false traditions?
 - Why do they make us so comfortable, even if we know they are not real, or the best thing for us?
- Jesus arrives in town in the midst of the traditions and celebrations going on at that time. He forgoes all of that to go to a man locked into a bad habit.
 - How is Jesus breaking into your life?
 - How do you respond?
 - How do we break out of our own ways, and into Jesus’ way of doing things?
 - Is there anything you need to break out of?
- JD talked about the phrase “Better the devil you know...” and how it is one of the least Christian things we can say and think. It implies a little devil is acceptable or having your traditions and ways of doing things is better than changing your ways and seeking Jesus.
 - What devils are you accepting?
 - How can you break free?
 - How can you help others “roll the dice with Jesus” and get so much more?
- God commanded celebrations in the Old Testament. He also commands us today to celebrate.
 - What can you celebrate in your life?
 - How can you acknowledge God’s goodness in your life and let the world know?
- How will you live differently because of this sermon?