

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

**RELIGIOUS
LEADERS
ATTEMPT TO
ARREST JESUS**

Open it

1. What makes students popular at your school?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 7:25–52.

2. What two things did the Jews believe would be true about the Christ when He appears?
3. When Jesus says, “You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come,” where did the Jews think Jesus was going?
4. What are the rivers of living water that would flow out of the hearts of those who believed in Jesus?
5. What were the different views of the identity of Jesus?
6. Why didn't the officers sent by the Pharisees and Chief Priests arrest Jesus?
7. How does Nicodemus stand up for Jesus amidst the accusations of the Pharisees?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: The Credibility of Jesus

Read John 7:25–35.

One spring day, I was visiting my friends at the University of Michigan when I was approached by a man who asked me to help him. I had some time to spare, and trying to be a good Christian, I offered to help him. I found out that his name was Mohamed, and he was from Africa. He had come to the US to collect an inheritance from an uncle who recently had died in a plane crash. He showed me the letter from an attorney of the inheritance he was to receive. He then asked if I could walk with him and help him find a hotel, and as we were walking, I shared Jesus with him. He proceeded to tell me how some missionaries in Africa had already told him about Jesus and that he too was a Christian.

He showed me a giant wad of money that the attorney had sent so he could travel to the US and pick up the rest of his inheritance from the attorney. We sat on a bench across from a hotel, and for some reason, he felt nervous as a foreigner taking all of that money into the hotel. We had gained a mutual trust in each other, so he asked if I could sit on the bench and hold on to his money while he went to check in at the hotel. He requested that I wrap whatever money I had on me with his money in a handkerchief and tuck it in my shirt so as to protect his money as if it was my own money. I thought this was part of his custom, so I took the \$30 I had on me, and I did what he asked. I waited for him on the bench for a long time and when he never came out, I went into the hotel to look for him. They said that they never saw him. I still had all of his money in a handkerchief in my shirt, so I called the police and told them my story. They said that I had been “pigeon dropped.” I got scammed. When I wasn't looking, he took the handkerchief with his wad of money and my money and switched it out with another handkerchief of wadded up newspapers. Turns out Mohamed was a fake.

Jesus isn't a fake Christ! He is the real deal! He is the long-expected Messiah that the Jews were waiting for. The Jews in our passage didn't believe that He was the Christ. They said that they knew that He came from Galilee, and that there is no way that Christ could come from Galilee. Jesus was already performing miracles, but that wasn't enough to convince them that Jesus is the real deal. The truth is that yes, they knew that Jesus lived in Galilee, but they didn't understand that Jesus came from His Heavenly Father, and that was where He was returning.

8. Sometimes students portray an image different from who they really are. How can you tell if someone is being authentic in who they are or a fake?

9. How do you know that Jesus is really who He says He is? How do you know that Christianity is really the truth?

Day 3 — Today's Theme: The Spirit-Filled Life

Read John 7:37–44.

Too many students today live meaningless and purposeless lives. Even students who are Christians can feel empty and powerless. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus stands up and gives the answer to not only having a meaningful and purposeful life, but also the key to living a powerful life—through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Before Pentecost¹, a time shortly after Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, believers in God did not have the Holy Spirit permanently dwelling in them². Today, the moment that you place your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit comes to permanently make His home in you.³

However, there are too many Christian students who are not experiencing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jesus promises that whoever believes in Him streams of living water will flow from within him.⁴

Why are so many Christian students living empty defeated lives? Yes, the Holy Spirit lives inside of them, but they don't access the filling of the Holy Spirit who is the "streams of living water flowing from within." Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

How do we access His filling? One of my mentors in life, Omar Sutherland, shared the concept of spiritual breathing. We first examine our lives and then "breathe out" by confessing our sin, and then "breathe in" by asking Him to fill us with His Spirit. This is a continual process that we need to implement all day long.

10. Describe what a day in the life of a Spirit-filled student looks like.

11. On a scale of 1–10 how would you rate your life as one that is Spirit filled? What does the Lord ask of you to live a more Spirit-filled life?

¹ Acts 2

² 1 Samuel 16:13–14

³ Ephesians 1:13–14

⁴ John 7:38

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Responding to Corruption

Read John 7:45–52.

Corruption is defined as “dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers).”⁵ If you haven’t already experienced it, chances are that you will experience corrupt people. How are we to respond in those situations?

Most of the Pharisees were corrupt individuals who looked out for their own interests and sought to extinguish any threats to their position or influence. Jesus threatened the position and authority of the Pharisees and often exposed their hypocrisy. Thus, the Pharisees were trying to get rid of Jesus by sending officers to arrest Him. Jesus was a threat to the Pharisees because some Jews were discussing and believing that Jesus may actually be the Christ, and if that were true (which it is), these Jews would stop following the Pharisees and start following Jesus.

The officers sent to arrest Jesus were listening intently to Jesus’ words to see if they could catch Him saying something that would break the law, but instead, they were amazed at Jesus’ teaching.⁶ The Pharisees quickly falsely judged the officers to be deceived by Jesus and the crowd to be ignorant of the law and cursed. Nicodemus, a Pharisee himself who visited Jesus at night⁷, spoke up, risking his standing among the other Pharisees, and defended Jesus while graciously challenging the authority of the Pharisees by calling them out for breaking a law of not giving Jesus a fair hearing and listening to what He had to say.

12. Where do you see corruption in our culture today? Can you give any specific examples?

13. As followers of Jesus, how are we to respond when we face the corruption of others? Read the following verses and share how they instruct you to respond properly.

Romans 13:1:

I Peter 2:18–20: .

I Peter 2:21–23:

⁵ merriam-webster.com/dictionary/corruption

⁶ John 7:46

⁷ John 3

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