# Study John 7

## Introduction

1. Read through Chapter seven and note all the various responses to Jesus and his ministry.
2. Attempt an A-Z of Jesus’ names.
3. Choose a) your favourite / most comforting and b) the most challenging
4. How much does your vision of Jesus affect your lifestyle?

## Feast of tabernacles

* One of three annual conferences – compulsory attendance for men living within 20 miles of Jerusalem, but people came from all over for this, ‘the great feast’.
* It was both a harvest festival, to give thanks for God’s provision generally, and a symbolic reminder of how the People of God had wandered in the wilderness setting up camp. Attendees brought branches and fronds with them, ‘booths’ or tabernacles were built and people camped during the Festival. Again, this highlighted their dependence on God.
* One ritual took place every day of the feast. A priest would fetch water from the Pool of Siloam, a natural pool fed from underground springs, and offer the water around the altar. This spoke of God’s provision in nature and was also a reminder of his provision in the wilderness of water from the rock.
* Who were Jesus’ target audience? What is he saying about his identity? How does 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 show what the early church thought?

## From Sunday’s service and sermon

* There were four illustrations given in the service:
  + Dry sponge
  + A farmer scratching around the surface, trying to eke out an existence, while below him are untold riches in an oil deposit
  + A water wheel fed from above to enable it to keep turning
  + A drooping cyclamen.
* Which of these best describes you today?
* You may be dry, but are you thirsty? What’s the difference?
* What things hold us back?
* What does Jesus offer to those who thirst? (Stress the fulness)
* What would this look like for you?
* In what ways can you flow?
* Pray with others as you are led.