KNOWING REAL LOVE

The Man of Truth John 7:1–36

"He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth." John 7:18

1. Read John 7:1–13. What advice do Jesus' brothers give to him? (vss. 3–4) What is their ambition for Jesus? How is Jesus' ambition different from his brothers'? (John 4:34)

2. What does how you spend your time say about your ambitions? (This might be something you need to ask God to show you.)

3. What do you think Jesus means when he says "the right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right" (vs. 6)? When will be the right time for Jesus? (John 13:1)

4. Read verses 14–24. What does Jesus say must happen in us before we can know if Jesus is from God? (vs. 17) Have you seen this happen in your life? Share with your group if you feel comfortable.

5. What is the difference between someone "who speaks on his own" and Jesus? (vs. 18) How does this difference challenge you?

6. Describe the attitude of the religious leaders towards Jesus. Explain why they feel this way towards Jesus. (Hint: What happened during Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem? [Recall John 5:1–10])

7. How does Jesus answer them? (vss. 22–23.)

8. In verse 24 what does Jesus tell his listeners to stop doing? What does he tell them to do?

9. Think about the standards you hold others to: is there anything hypocritical about them?

10. In verses 25–36 what does Jesus say about his relationship with his Father?

11. Describe the reactions to Jesus in verses 30–32. What is your reaction to him?