**Growth Group Bible Study**

“Encountering Jesus”

Faith and Our Family

Lesson 5

February 4, 2018

**Reading** John 7:1-10

**Opening Questions**

1. How would you describe your family life growing up? Did you grow up in a Christian family or have support for your being a Christian?

2. If you had siblings growing up, did you have much “sibling rivalry”? How did that manifest itself?

3. Has there been any conflict in your immediate or extended family over you or others being Christian? How have you handled that?

**Study**

1. Briefly look at John 6. From that text what are some of the “things” John refers to in John 7 that happened in Jesus’ ministry?

2. Why was Jesus “unwilling to walk in Judea” (7:1)? cf. John 5:16-18. Was He “avoiding” His inevitable death or is there more going on here? cf. 7:6, 8

3. What do we know about the Feast of Booths? (7:2) cf. Lev. 23:40, 42-43

4. Read the following Scriptures and share what are some of the things we know about Jesus’ family life:

 Matt. 13:54-56

 Luke 2:40, 52

 Mark 3:20-21; 31-35

 John 2:11-12

5. What do you see as that which is behind Jesus’ brothers urging Him to go to the Feast (7:3-4)?

6. What is the significance of John 7:5 to this encounter with Jesus?

7. How would you summarize what Jesus tells His brothers in John 7:6-8?

8. When our family doesn’t always share our faith and/or can be the most opposed to our faith in Jesus, how can and should we respond?

9. What does it mean that “our faith in Jesus matters more than our family?”

 cf. Luke 12:51-53; 14:26; Mark 3:34-35

10. Read Acts 1:12-14. What do we learn here about Jesus’ family and their faith in Him? What hope does this give for our family coming to faith in Jesus?

**Application**

1. If you know someone who is somewhat alone in their faith in Jesus in their family (e.g. spouse not a believer, children not or have “wandered away from the faith”, etc.), come alongside of them this week to offer support or pray for them!

2. Thank God for your church “family” and celebrate God giving us one another!