

Group Reflection Questions

Do people have any good reasons to have a bad impression of Christians?

Which is harder for you: Speaking truth or speaking love?

Have you ever had a time when you stood up for the gospel? Have you ever had a time when you have crumbled for the gospel?

If someone asked you, “who is Jesus?”
What would you say?

Facing Trouble **John 7:10-41**

When I lived in the mountains I was good friends with Steve, the pastor at the Baptist church in Aspen. Aspen was a community that was very hostile to the gospel. Yet, several people in Steve’s church were making some strong stands for the gospel. I asked him one day: “How are the people in your church doing?” He replied, “some people are really thriving as they stand up for the gospel and some are crumbling.” Jesus is at a point in his ministry when many of his followers have abandoned him. Peoples’ impressions of Jesus are mixed at best. In this one chapter we see Jesus described “a good man, a deceiver, a great teacher, demon-possessed, doer of miraculous signs, the Prophet, and the Messiah.” Some people love him and some people hate him.

Sometimes when we are sent out with the message of Christ we will be rejected because the truth of the message strikes a nerve. Other times Christians might be rejected because they are just plain rude and people are hardened even further to the gospel. Paul here gives us a good admonition to follow: “Speak the truth in love.” (Eph. 4:15)