

DISCOVERING LIFE TOGETHER SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS ON TRIAL – JOHN 5:16-47

TRIAL NOTES:

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: Are there any extenuating circumstances when it is right to break the law? When would God's law supersede a federal or state law? Discuss.

The Basics: Read John 5. What were the immediate consequences of Jesus breaking the Sabbath religious rules? How does John describe the beginning of Jesus' trial in this chapter? Is Jesus on trial today?

Quick Fire Round John 5:16-47.

- Read John 5:19-29. What specific claims did Jesus make about Himself? Why did these claims infuriate the Jewish leaders? Do His claims allow us to call Jesus simply a good teacher, a prophet, a religious leader? What are the implications of Jesus' claims?
- Read John 5:30-31, Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15 and Hebrews 10:28. How did Jesus begin His defense as deity? Why multiple witnesses?
- Read John 5:33-47. Who are the five witnesses Jesus brought to His defense? Which ones are the most compelling to you and why?
- Read John 5:37-44. Did the people reject Jesus as God for lack of evidence? What underlying reasons did Jesus give for their unbelief? Are the reasons the same for people today? Discuss.
- Read John 5:21, 1 Corinthians 15:1-19. What is the greatest evidence we have about Jesus' deity today (that they did not have in John 5)? Why is the resurrection vital to Christianity?

The challenge: Does the way you live defend, liberate or prosecute Jesus in the court of daily opinion? How can you search the Scriptures but not know and/or live by them? How does this passage challenge you to choose or reject Jesus as Savior and Lord?

Memorize John 5:24 *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.*

Prayer: Father, forgive me for my unbelief and pride. I don't understand everything but thank you for making it clear that through Jesus I can experience new life today and forever. Amen.