

1. Think about the last argument you were in with a friend, coworker, family member, or neighbor. What was the dividing issue? Why did it seem so important in the moment? As you consider it in hindsight, was it worth dividing over? Why or why not?
2. Read John 7:40–41. What was the debate about? What options were on the table? How did they all come up just a bit short?
3. Read John 7:42. Why was the origin of Jesus such a significant issue for those in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century? What were they not willing to admit about him that would have made their arguments moot?
4. Read John 7:43–44. Why was Jesus such a polarizing figure?
5. Read John 7:45–47. What immoral agenda were the Jewish leaders trying to accomplish?
6. What is positive about the intermediate account of the officers in v46? What about it comes up short?
7. How do the Jewish leaders reveal their own illegitimate authority and condescending attitudes in vv48–49?
8. Read John 7:50–52. Why is it so significant that Nicodemus challenges the religious authorities? How does this confound their own argument?
9. So, given what we've discussed, how does one decide when to divide?
10. Once rightly divided, what step do you need to take to drink more deeply from Christ as you display Christ to the world around you?