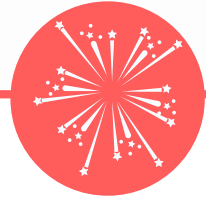


# “STAY OR WALK AWAY”

## SERIES

### “LEARNING FROM JESUS”

WEEK 1



#### SPARKS

- Have you ever dealt with someone who was difficult or hard to get along with? How did you handle it
- How do you usually react when someone pressures you to do something you’re not comfortable with?
- How do you usually react when people around you are negative or critical?



#### WORD

6 Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.

JOHN 7:6

(Read also John 7:1-24 for context)

We all face moments when relationships become difficult, draining, or even harmful. The question is:

how do we respond in a way that honors God? In John 7:1–24, Jesus navigates pressure from family, hostility from religious leaders, and unfair judgment from the crowd. As we look at how Jesus responds, we’ll reflect together on our own relationships and ask: When should we stay engaged, when should we speak up, and when is it wise to step away?

## 1. TOXIC SITUATIONS ARE INEVITABLE.

*John 7:1-3*

*'1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee.*

***He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.***

*2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. 3 So **his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing."***

Toxic situations are unavoidable, even for Jesus. Sometimes they come from those close to us, like family or friends, making them especially challenging. Jesus modeled wisdom by stepping back from danger and pressure, showing that walking away can be a protective, God-honoring choice. Is there a situation in your life right now where stepping back could protect you and allow God's plan to unfold?

1

## 2. NOT ALL CARE IS GENUINE; DISCERNMENT IS NEEDED

*John 7:4-7*

*'4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.' 5 **For not even his brothers believed in him.** 6 Jesus said to them, **"My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil."***

Sometimes what looks like care or concern may hide personal motives or pressure, as Jesus experienced with His brothers. Obedience to God doesn't guarantee the absence of toxicity; instead, it requires discernment to recognize true care and respond according to God's timing, not human expectation. Have you ever faced "advice" or concern that felt helpful but didn't align with God's plan? How did you respond?

2

### 3. ACT ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, NOT TO PLEASE MAN.

*John 7:16-17*

*'16 So Jesus answered them, 'My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.*

*17 **If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.***

Jesus showed that standing firm in God's truth may draw criticism or misunderstanding. Walking away, saying "no," or remaining steadfast should always reflect God's will, not the pressure, opinions, or expectations of others. Following God's guidance protects us and keeps our actions aligned with His purposes. Are there times when you've compromised to please others instead of following God's direction? What would acting according to His will look like in that situation?

3

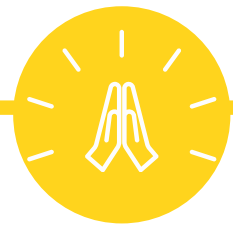
## LIVE IT!

- Pray for wisdom to recognize toxic situations and avoid unnecessary harm.
- Pray for discernment to identify hidden motives and respond wisely.
- Pray for a heart that seeks God's approval above all else.



## PRAYER

- Pray for peace and protection in relationships that are difficult or draining.
- Pray for discernment to identify hidden motives and respond wisely.
- Pray for clarity to make decisions aligned with God's Word, not others' expectations.



## **“STAY OR WALK AWAY”**

### **SERIES**