

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Game Time” (pt. 2) – 8/17/2014

Scripture: John 12: 27-36

Bottom Line: TCC's values guide who we are and how we do life together.

INTRODUCTION: If you could be introduced or described using words about who you are (not what you do), what would you want your top 3 to be? Often times, these descriptions are our values or things that we hold dear. Our values come from the way we view the world and they determine how we live our lives. The Bible tells a story that shapes our lives and gives us values to live by. Jesus taught these same values throughout the gospels. Today we want to look at these values as a church, discuss them, and apply them to our lives.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 12:27-36

Jesus' soul was troubled. He knew God had called him to lay down his life for the forgiveness of sins but the task was daunting. Yet in the midst of his trouble, he chose to live by the values he knew to reflect Scripture. In this passage, we can see the values that The Crossing Church holds dear:

God's Glory

- God's glory is his fame. There is nothing greater than God's glory. When he is glorified, everything else thrives!
- Is there anything I've practically prioritized over God's glory? What specific area of my life am I looking to something or someone other than God to be all-satisfying? How can Jesus be all-satisfying in that for me?

Christ-centered

- Jesus is the main point of the Bible. He holds the universe together. This includes our lives. Knowing him is the most precious treasure a person can have. Not knowing him, makes religion worthless and good works vain.
- What is the hub of my life? What is holding everything together in my life? What, if I didn't have it, would make life not worth living?

Biblically-based

- In this passage, the people went straight to the Bible to find the final word on the Messiah. Of course, they didn't always interpret it correctly, but the lesson remains. We should also look to Scripture as our final authority for the way we view the world, the beliefs we have, and the way we live or lives.
- In making choices, what's the determining factor or final say?

Radical Grace

- Verses 35-36 teach us about Radical Grace. Jesus (the light) became a man, lived among us, and died for our forgiveness. When we believe in the Jesus, we become like Jesus in that we are seen by God as righteous, pure, and his child. We don't earn this. It is Jesus' gift to us.
- Where am I trying to perform works for God rather than accept grace from God? What would change if I knew grace was free?

Simply Strategic

- If you read the Gospels, it becomes clear that Jesus was very strategic in the way he lived his life. He knew the salvation of man was at stake and so he lived his life in a way to ensure that forgiveness was given.
- How am I actually, really spending my time and money? What is the most strategic use of my time, talents, and treasure? How can I most strategically leverage my life, not to simply do more, but so that it counts for more?

Authentic Community

- When we believe, we become "sons of light". There is no such thing as lone ranger Christians. By nature of our shared faith in Jesus, we become family with bonds that last for eternity.
- Who am I intentionally sharing life with that is encouraging me toward Jesus? Who am I growing in faith with? Who authentically knows me? Who am I caring for and helping connect to Jesus?

Missionally-minded

- Becoming a follower of Jesus means that we will live our lives differently. If the message of Jesus is really true, then every follower of Jesus is a missionary to the world in which they live.
- Do I view myself as a missionary? How can I view and live all of my life on mission? What are specific ways that I can reach my neighbors and co-workers? How is my neighborhood, office, or school my mission field?