

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Can You See Him? (pt. 1)” – 01.06.2014

Scripture: John 21:24-25; 20:30-31

Bottom Line: The gospel of John is an invitation to have a free, full and forever life by grace through faith in Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

This week we are beginning our study of the Gospel of John. John, the author of the gospel, was known for many things in the Scriptures. He infamously fished naked at one point and he also boldly called for God to rain down fire on people who did not welcome Jesus to their town. Sounds like a fun guy! What are some of the funny and unique things you've been known for over your life?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 21:24

Who is John? He was one of Jesus' 12 disciples and was also known by many titles in the New Testament. We are first introduced to John as one of the “sons of thunder” alongside his brother. John was also called the “beloved disciple” and was even asked by Jesus to look after his mother minutes before His death on the cross. His testimony is one that can be trusted as he personally witnessed Jesus' life, death and resurrection. After Jesus' death and resurrection, John gave his life as a leader in the early church so others would come to know of the joy in God that he had personally experienced.

1) What sticks out to you about John's life?

Read John 21:25

John's gospel does not give an exhaustive account of Jesus' life and work. Rather, he writes in a way in which others could know Jesus and experience salvation through Him. John was very selective when he wrote his gospel as he states, “the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” if he were to write about all that Jesus did.

- 1) John indicates that he had more than enough stories about Jesus to choose from when writing his gospel. Why is this important to remember as we read through John's gospel?

Read John 20:30-31

John wrote his gospel so that others may believe Jesus is the Christ and find true life in His name. Everyone seeks after a full and free life. We have all tried to find life in vehicles, careers, success and dreams. John says a full, free and forever life is available to everyone. However, this life is not found in possessions, success or experiences. This life is found in Jesus alone.

- 1) What type of life do you desire?
- 2) John says a free, full and forever life is found in Jesus alone. Do you believe this? Why or why not?

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

John's gospel tells us how to experience a free, full and forever life. We don't obtain these things through works or rigorous actions. Rather, this life is available by grace through faith in Jesus. This is the bad news/good news of the gospel. We were broken and dead in our sins, but God offers us true life in Jesus. John goes to great lengths to let his readers know that the life they are seeking is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He merely invites his readers to come and believe in God's all sufficient work on their behalf. **The Gospel of John is an invitation to have a free, full and forever life by grace through faith in Jesus.**

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) Name one person you can intentionally pray and care for throughout the year. Pray that God helps them to embrace the offer of free, full and forever life by grace through faith in Jesus.
- 2) Take time to pray for our church. Ask God to help us grow closer to Him and also reach tons of people during the upcoming year.
- 3) Commit to reading through the entirety of the Gospel of John several times during 2014.