

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Can You See Him? (pt. 3)” – 01.19.2014

Scripture: John 1:6-18

Bottom Line: God took on flesh and came to earth to redeem and adopt his people who were wandering in darkness.

INTRODUCTION:

In honor of John the Baptist... let's get real. Break the ice with a few fun questions for your small group. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? What's the weirdest thing you've ever worn (biggest fashion regret)?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 1:6-8

John the Baptist was known to be a bit of a wild man who ate locusts and wore clothes made of camel hair. Definitely a little weird by today's standards! But the most unique thing about John was that he leveraged his entire life to make Jesus known. His purpose was to point to Jesus so that other would see and believe in him.

- 1) What was John's purpose in life? As Christians, do you believe we have the same purpose? Why or why not?
- 2) What are some practical ways you could leverage your life to make Jesus known?

Read John 1:9-13

Jesus is the light which enlightens humanity's path back to God. We were stumbling in darkness and Jesus came to rescue us. He wasn't welcomed with a celebration, but with a cross. Some rejected Jesus, but others believed. Those who believed were given the right to become children of God! They were given this right not by their own work, but because of Jesus' work.

- 1) Not only does God save us, but he literally adopts us as sons and daughters. How does this practically impact your life?

Read John 1:14-18

We often think God is distant or angry with us. However, those thoughts or emotions that we sometimes struggle with are not from God. This passage says God comes to us full of grace and truth. He doesn't arrive and begin to point out all of our flaws and shortcomings. Rather, Jesus comes and offers grace upon grace to those he deeply loves. Our role in God's salvation is simply to believe in him.

- 1) How do you think Jesus views you? Do you believe he sees you as his child? Why or why not?
- 2) What are some ways you could embrace God's love for you? (memorize scripture, preach the gospel to yourself, etc)

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

How are we made right with God? Do we need to do our best or make sure our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds? Is God simply concerned with a checklist? Thankfully, the answer is a resounding "NO"! The gospel says that we aren't just people who do bad things, but that apart from Jesus we are literally dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1). This is why this passage from John is critical for our salvation. "God didn't come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people alive." Jesus coming to earth means we have been saved by God himself. Because of our sin we owed a debt that we could not pay on our own. Jesus comes and fully pays our debt. "He came to possess what he already possessed as our Creator". This passage reveals God's relentless love for all of us. He came to redeem and adopt us as his own! Now, we can know and enjoy God forever. As Christians we are no longer defined by our mistakes. We are now valued as children of God.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) Ask your small group to share a story of how God has offered grace upon grace in their own lives?
- 2) Discuss some ways that you could collectively leverage your small group to make much of Jesus?
- 3) Pray that God would help our church in leveraging everything to make Jesus known in our city. That he would continue to help us grow closer to him and make him more known to the people in our area.