

Small Group Homework

For the week of April 9, 2017

GETTING STARTED

What's one thing you remember about getting report cards when you were a student?

LOOKING BACK

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

MY STORY

1. What are some of the measures of a successful life you were taught to strive for?

2. If someone who raised you were to give you grades for your life so far, in what area(s) would they give you an "A"?

DIGGING DEEPER

John 12:44-46 (NLT) ⁴⁴ Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. ⁴⁵ For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark."

1. What does it mean to put your trust in Jesus?

2. When the kings ruled in Israel, they often got caught up in worshiping idols and making alliances with other world powers. How did that show a lack of trust in God?

3. What are some of the things we trust in today that show a lack of trust in Christ?

John 12:47-48 (NLT) ⁴⁷ “I will not judge those who hear me but don’t obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. ⁴⁸ But all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken.”

1. Jesus indicates here that there will be a day of judgment, a kind of final exam. According to what He says here, what will be the criteria for judgment?
2. How is that different from what people generally expect?
3. What can we do to help people understand that life’s final exam hinges on this key question?

John 12:49-50 (NLT) ⁴⁹ “I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”

Jesus says here that God’s commands lead to eternal life, which is what His audience at that time also believed: “If you follow God’s rules, He lets you live; if you break His rules, He punishes you.” The problem is that everybody falls short of God’s standard (Jesus is the only exception). The Good News is that He took the punishment we deserved.

1. Have you entrusted your life to Jesus?
2. If so, how has this changed your perspective on what a successful life looks like?
3. How would you respond to someone who says they believe Jesus was a good man, but that He is just one of many paths to Heaven?

BRINGING IT HOME: We’re just about to the end of this Small Group term. I hope you have grown in your relationship with Christ and with each other. Be on the lookout for opportunities to reconnect over the summer, including Backyard Missions, Revive Central Wisconsin, and the New Day Getaway. Next week you’ll have the chance to provide feedback about your small group experience, and to make a plan for fall small groups.

PRAYERS: