Small Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Discussion Leader's Tips (not to be read out loud but to help you prepare)

1. Look over the entire lesson before leading the discussion and get a good idea about what the major points are.
2. The Warm Up questions are related to the lesson, use them and refer to them from time to time in the lesson.
    a. Kingdom Community is the theme, and Danny made mention the church is to be the place in which folks can definitively and absolutely encounter what God intends his kingdom to be and look like on earth.
    b. The idea of where you go to encounter other things will be the warm up tie in.
3. **Include the kids! Help them feel welcome and part of the group.**
4. Let your questions hang there for a while, don't feel the need to do all the talking. Give them 10 seconds...it'll seem like an eternity. Don't bail them out.
    a. You know your group and who you can call on.
    b. Don't embarrass someone, especially guests, but you can ask individuals, what do you think?
5. Change it up. If the question is worded in a way that seems clunky or confusing, reword it. The goal is meaningful spiritual discussion for your group. If the questions aren't getting you there, make some changes.
6. Have any questions or want to chat about the lesson? Feel free to call Joe.

Warm Up

1. Who can answer the most correctly (where would you go to encounter …)
    a. Where's Mount Rushmore?
    b. Where's the MLB Hall of Fame?
    c. Where is the Liberty Bell?
    d. Where are the US Mints?
    e. Where is the Bowling Hall of Fame?
    f. Where is Willis Tower?
    g. Where is the Coca-Cola museum?
    h. Where Acadia National Park?
    i. Where are the Mustangs of Las Colinas?

Scripture & Explore

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9
    a. What did Peter mean when he said we are (what are the implications)...
        i. Chosen?
        ii. Royal Priesthood?
        iii. A holy nation
        iv. A people belonging to God
    b. We are all of these to what end? ("...so that you may _____…")

2. Have everyone look up Matthew 5-7 and explore these ideas from the Sermon on the Mount as a group (this will take a bit more time, but allow/encourage your group to open up the Bible and talk these through). So based on Jesus' sermon...
    a. In what ways did Jesus *redefine values?* Examples?
    b. In what ways did Jesus *elevate others?* Examples?
    c. In what ways did Jesus *transform our identity*? Examples?
    d. In what ways did Jesus *change our priorities*? Examples?

Discover

1. Danny's question: So what does all this look like?
    a. We are defined by justice, righteousness, mercy, truth, and love.
        i. Would you say this is how the world defines Christians?
        ii. My guess is that's not the first thing that comes to mind when people think of Christians.
            1. Agree/Disagree? Why?
            2. What words would they use to define us?
            3. How do we overcome the possible negatives?
    b. Our relationships are guided by forgiveness, acceptance,and forbearance.
        i. Which of these is the biggest obstacle for the church?
        ii. Which of these is the biggest obstacle for you in your relationships?
    c. Our message becomes repentance, transformation, hope and renewal.
        i. What are the challenges of a combined message of repentance/transformation and hope/renewal? Do they seem to contradict?
        ii. How do we preach this message without turning people away?
    d. Peace, joy, fellowship and harmony begin to reign in our lives.
        i. What difference would these attributes make in your workplace?
        ii. Is there a particular area you could focus on in your sphere of influence that would bring about needed changes?
2. A true alternative community is the goal.
    a. Finish up by reading the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matt 7:24-27) and pray for our group to be the community our world needs.