

Session 6:

Embracing the Whole Kingdom and Trusting the Right Way

PREP

Big Idea: Re-examining our ideals and expectations around God and his kingdom can free us to graciously enter into his kingdom work and help us sustain a genuine relationship with him no matter what comes our way.

Group Goal: Help your group members envision what it is like to love God for nothing and enter his kingdom work without the idealism that keeps us from working in broken systems and with broken people.

Facilitator Goal: Select the four questions that will best help your community accomplish the group goal above. You may use the following questions or come up with your own questions. Watch the clock and give adequate time to discuss these, filling in extra time with additional questions.

LESSON

Lesson Questions

CHAPTER 10

1. How does idealism alienate us from God and from others? (p. 160 paperback; p. 198 ebook)
2. The 7th century Christian monk John Climacus concluded this about monks who moved between monasteries always looking for something better: “Those who readily go from monastery to monastery are totally unfit since nothing is more conducive to barrenness than impatience” (p. 163 paperback; p. 201 ebook). Why do you think faithfulness in the midst of broken systems is such a rare virtue to find?
3. In what ways did Jesus engage the broken religious system of his day? How do you think he would have answered the charge of being “complicit”?

4. Read Matthew 13:24-30. What are some difficult relationships or communities you find yourself (or have found yourself) in and how might this passage reshape your understanding of your place within them?

CHAPTER 11

5. What are some things God never promised that he'd do for us that we sometimes find ourselves disappointed in when he doesn't do them?
6. What does Jesus' responses to the temptations of the Devil in Matthew 4:3, 6, and 9 tell us about his view of God's Word?
7. While the author admits along with Soren Kierkegaard that there are "leaps of faith" in a faith journey, he also contends that in every doubt there is a leap too (p. 173 paperback; p. 213 ebook). Why does this matter?
8. The author writes, "Postmodern philosopher Richard Rorty once famously said that truth is whatever your peers will let you get away with. When we don't trust God, we trust the crowd. Or the peer-review process. Or ourselves. Or love. Or even reason. Whatever it is, everyone trusts something. We have to trust something" (p. 174 paperback; p. 214 ebook). Aside from God, what tends to demand your trust the most? Have you ever found it to be a threat to your faith in God?
9. What does it mean to be disappointed by God and how can that be a healthy part of trusting him? (p. 176 paperback; p. 216 and 217 ebook)
10. How would you ever know if you loved God for nothing? What are some ways might you experience joy, freedom, hope and healing if through his enabling and your open heart you were able to take another step toward loving God in this way?

TL;DR

1. What is something you underlined and why?
2. What is an area you feel like you want to grow in?
3. What's a perspective you want to change?

Conclusion

Determine how your group will conclude your last meeting (a time of service, celebration, etc).

Pray