

"Healing Truth"

John 17: 6-8, 16-20, 22-24

10/2/22

Discussion Guide

Preparation

Talk about your spiritual growth. What has helped you change the most over the years? What hasn't helped? How do you feel about where you are at with the Lord right now?

The Passage

Read John 17:6-8, 16-25

1. What do you think about living for all eternity? That's a long time! What are we going to do for eternity? Does it creep you out or do you look forward to the afterlife?

2. Meditate on John 17:20, 24.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." (vs. 24)

"I have given them the glory that you gave me." (vs 20)

One day we will share in Jesus pre-existent glory, the glory he had before he came to earth. What would that look like and feel like to you?

3. *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." 1 Peter 1:3-4*

Does what Peter says here describe your experience? Have you "escaped the corruption in the world" and are you "participating in the divine nature?"

4. Have you ever been given a gift that you did not truly receive? What was it and what did you do with it? Have you truly received the gift of holiness that God has given you? How do you know that you have?
5. Talk about each of the main points of the sermon: 1) The Truth Creates Us – Turns us into Christians. 2) The Truth Recreates Us – Enables us to act like Christians.
6. Have you ever questioned the authenticity of your faith? What caused you to question it? Was it due to the lack of a dramatic testimony, emotive worship experience, or making a dramatic sacrifice for Christ?
7. According to this passage, how does Jesus know who his disciples are? Does this give you an assurance of your faith that you didn't have before?
8. When it comes to your spiritual growth, have you tended to be too passive, too aggressive or do you think you have it just right?
9. Has anyone ever assaulted your will with the Word?

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10. Discuss C.S. Lewis' argument for the existence of God:

"In this life there is a corresponding satisfaction for every desire. Babies are born hungry. And there is a corresponding satisfaction, food. Ducks are born to swim. Good news, there is water! And if I find within myself a desire that has no earthly satisfaction, the only logical conclusion is I've been made for something not of this world. Our satisfaction comes from God!"

11. Romans 8:9 says, "We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."

Does Paul's experience with the Word fit your experience? Does the struggle for holiness mean we are not a Christian?

12. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," Ephesians 3:20

Do you tend to force the fruit of the Spirit to appear in your life or is it more of a natural outcome of your relationship with God? Do you think you try too hard to become more Christ-like or do you think you aren't trying hard enough?

13. Look at the two teachings on how to stop worrying. How do they engage the will? What do these passages teach us about how to develop other desired Christ-like traits?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Matthew 6:25-26

14. How would you respond to a person who believes this about the Bible: "I don't trust human nature enough to believe that the Bible we read today isn't a misogynistic, egotistical, power play version of what was supposed to be."

Do people need to believe everything in the Bible to become a Christian? Does a person have to believe in the inerrancy of the Bible to become a Christian? What is inerrancy anyway? (You may want to look the word up in a Bible dictionary. There are many views of inerrancy)

What does a person have to believe to become a Christian?