

HIS|STORY
Small Group Questions • Week of 09/17/17
Making It Easier • John 12:20-36

Getting Started:

In our passage people can't "see" Jesus. How good is your eyesight? Are you near sighted, far-sighted, etc?

The Big Idea:

Some people want to see Jesus. It looks like Jesus doesn't want them to see him. He hides from them. This turns out to be a part of a bigger plan to help them really see him through saving faith. This plan involves death.

Digging Deeper: (Read John 12:20-36)

- 1) In verse 21 some Greeks request to "see Jesus." It seems that Jesus refuses their friend request and ends up hiding (vs.36).
 - a) Why might a Jew have been suspicious about non-Jews (cf. Joshua 23:7)?
 - b) Why do you think Jesus hides in this passage, or God hides in other passages (Isaiah 45:15)?
 - c) Discuss a few situations where avoiding a person is the best thing for them at the time.
 - d) Where would the Greeks possibly see Jesus next (vs.32)?
- 2) The Greeks request to "see" Jesus physically. Jesus wants the Greeks to see his and the Father's glory (vs.23 & 28).
 - a) Salvation is sometimes described as God healing spiritually blind eyes to see and enjoy His worth. Read and discuss how the follow passages would apply to these Greeks: 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; 3:15-18.
 - b) A non-Christian reacts to God in the way that a naïve person might respond to looking at the Grand Canyon at night. Discuss the parallel.
 - c) A Christian in this life doesn't have the best sight of God yet. Christians can react to God the way that a naïve person might react to the Grand Canyon at twilight. Discuss the parallel.
- 3) The Greeks seeing Jesus is connected to a metaphor Jesus uses from agriculture. Read verse 24 and answer these questions.
 - a) How would you rephrase the metaphor or change it to illustrate the same point?
 - b) What's the "fruit"?
 - c) What does "alone" mean to Jesus' overall point?
 - d) How does this connect with verses 32-33?
- 4) In verse 25-26 Jesus continues to apply the metaphor to us. Read the verses and

discuss what the following phrases mean: “whoever loves his life loses it,” “...hates his life keeps it.”

5) In verses 17-20, Lazarus loses his life, is buried like a seed and then raised. This dramatic episode in his life draws the Greeks to Jesus. In the message on Sunday pastor Jake said that people have their eyes opened through Jesus’ death and ours. Discuss instances in your closest relationship where you must bury personal preferences or reasonable expectations for others to flourish (e.g. spouse, child, parent, grandchild, sibling, etc.).

Putting It Into Practice:

6) Loving our neighbors to Jesus involves little acts of dying. Your ‘deaths’ for them help them see Jesus’ death for them.

a) What could that have looked like in your life recently?

b) What are the biggest obstacles we face in laying down our lives for those around us and what do you intend to do about it?