



JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD: RECOGNIZE HIM

AUTHENTIC JESUS

VERSE
BY
VERSE
THROUGH
JOHN'S
GOSPEL

JOHN 1:13 - 34

Small Group Discussion Questions

Ice Breaker: Pastor James shared about a delicious meal to illustrate the principle of “power in the combination.” Begin by sharing with one another your favorite foods. Then, go around again and share with each other about a time when you experienced the powerful combination of grace and truth. What influence did this combination have on your life?

- In John 1, the author speaks of seeing Jesus. Pastor James explained that the type of seeing John was referring to was much more than simply seeing with the eyes. In what way is John implying that he and others saw Jesus? Explain the difference between simply understanding who Jesus is and recognizing who He is. Why is it vital to your relationship with Christ to see Jesus in a way that you recognize Him? As a Small Group, commit your applicational Bible study time to God by praying or singing the words the worship leader sang: “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to know you.”
- Last week, over 20,000 people attended Easter at Harvest and 254 people confessed Christ as Lord and Savior. Stop and praise God for the miracle of these conversions. Then, pray for these new members of God’s family to take seriously that decision by attending church and connecting to a New Believer Small Group. Then, discuss: How do people go from not wanting anything to do with Christ to attending church to coming forward to profess faith in Christ (cf. John 1:13)? Who opens their eyes to Jesus for who He really is? How should that affect your Small Group’s prayer for the lost and evangelism of the lost?
- Jesus Is Full of Grace and Truth. Read John 1:13-18.** In John’s time, referring to God as “the Word” was common. But few believed that the Word was knowable or reachable. It was revolutionary, for John to say, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.” What must the earliest readers of John’s book have thought when they read that statement? Pastor James stated that while most at Harvest would know who Jesus is, many around us have no idea about the authentic Jesus and His Gospel. Where have you experienced God’s full grace? Where have you seen God’s full truth?
- The Apostle John said that he had seen Jesus’ glory. Pastor James explained *glory* as the thumbprint of Christ. What does John 1:14 say is the glory of Jesus? Like a wave rushing upon the shore, Christ has given you grace upon grace. Pause for a moment to reflect and share about the grace God has washed upon you: life (breath, senses); location (home, city, country); light (Bible, Gospel, community); love (God, family, friends). As a Small Group, list five reasons why you are blessed by Jesus as fully grace and truth rather than partially one. How can you live like one who is blessed by grace and truth?
- Jesus is the Christ. Read John 1:19-28.** When John the Baptist arrived on the scene, the religious leaders were eager to label him as someone he was not (Messiah) or did not know himself to be (Elijah). Why was it important for him to be confident of who he was and who he was not? What type of esteem was John the Baptist filled with: a low self-esteem or a high esteem of Christ? What’s the difference between the two? Why would it be beneficial for a Christian to have a high-esteem of Christ, instead of a high self-esteem? What is deceptive about pursuing self-esteem?
- Pastor James told the story of his disastrous piano recital to illustrate this point: Too many Christians compare themselves to others rather than to Christ when assessing their walk with Him. John the Baptist considered himself God’s unworthy messenger. He knew who he was because he recognized who Jesus was. What’s the danger in comparing yourself to other believers instead of Christ? In what contexts are you elevating yourself above others? How can you grow in seeing yourself as an unworthy messenger of God?
- Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. Read John 1:29-31.** The Jewish people were accustomed to living under the sacrificial system (cf. Genesis 22, Ex. 12). The pure, spotless, innocent lamb was considered sufficient to bear the sins of the people, but only for a time. Discuss the purpose of atonement (cf. Hebrews 9:22) and why Christ’s sacrifice for our sins was complete (cf. Hebrews 9:12-14). After generations of living under this method of atonement, what was astonishing about John the Baptist’s introduction, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”? Pastor James said that if your sins have been truly forgiven by Christ, then: (1) You’re blessed (Romans 2:4), (2) You’re without condemnation (Romans 8:1), (3) You’re tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32), (4) You’re forgiving (Ephesians 4:32), and (5) You’re being forgiven is the most significant thing about you (1 John 2:12). How should these truths influence how view ourselves? In which of these areas do you need the reminder of what Christ’s atonement has done?
- Jesus is the Son of God. Read John 1:32-34.** If you confess Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you have the Spirit of Christ in you (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:12). If you’re a Christian, then you have the Spirit, but how much would you say the Spirit has of you? How have you seen the Spirit at work in your life? How is the Spirit becoming more and more in control of your life? What sinful patterns or attitudes do you need to lay down today in order to be fully controlled by the Spirit?
- The aim of every believer is to become an imitator of Christ (cf. Ephesians 5:1, 1 Peter 1:15). If the primary qualities of Christ are grace and truth, then those must be our aim, as well. Discuss the meaning and purpose of each term. Identify which quality you are strong in and which you are weak in. What relationship or situation are you likely to need to use more truth or grace? Check back with each other for the next week to share how you’re doing in manifesting truth and grace in that situation.