

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

RE: JESUS
OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2009
DYING JESUS (Pastor Scott Lanigan)

Sometimes we fail to take the time to hear each other's stories. This will involve risking. Take time to share around the group each person's story of discovering Jesus. Maybe some have yet to do so, that's okay, just share where they are at on the journey.

Read the following quote out to the group:

"Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way." - William H Murray

How have you seen this quote play out in your life? Those who have made the decision to make Jesus savior and Lord, how have you seen this quote come to fruition in that decision?

Take some time to read and discuss the following passages:
2 Peter 1:5-9, Psalm 107:10-16, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 8:31-32

What stuck out to you in those passages?
What "chains" did Christ break for you?
How does "being transformed by the renewing of your mind" play out in your day?
If you were to evaluate your life with Christ in the last year - has it been growing? Why or why not?

Sometimes being reminded of where we have come from inspires to move forward to where we need to be. Read the following lyrics from Steven Curtis Chapman's song "Remember the Chains"

*I couldn't help but wonder what he was thinking
As he stared out the window through the sky
It seemed he was taking his last look at freedom
From the hopeless longing in his eyes
There were chains on his hands and chains on his feet
And as I passed him by the thought came to me*

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*Remember your chains
Remember the prison that once held you
Before the love of God broke through
Remember the place you were without grace
And when you see where you are now
Remember your chains
And remember your chains are gone*

*There's no one more thankful to sit at the table
Than the one who best remembers hunger's pain
And no heart loves greater than the one that is able
To recall the time when all it knew was shame
The wings of forgiveness can take us to heights never seen
But the wisest ones, they will never lose sight of where they were set free*

*So, remember your chains
Remember the prison that once held you
Before the love of God broke through
Remember the place you were without grace
And when you see where you are now
Remember your chains
And remember your chains are gone*

*And in the light of all that we've been forgiven of
We will find our hearts fuller and freer
To give and receive God's love*

*Imagine what your life would be
If Jesus had not set you free
Remember your chains are gone
Remember all that once held you
Before the love of God broke through*

WHAT NOW?

If you are willing, make a commitment to yourself today. Commit to making Christ the centre of your day rather than another thing added to your day. Practically, take a few minutes each morning to talk to him, and ask him to be the centre of what you do today. Look for him in your day. Be willing to be changed, to be transformed.

PRAY

Pray through Colossians 1:9-12 for each other by putting each person's name into it (example below) and then close off as a leader.

Lord today I ask that Lisa may be filled with the knowledge of how God works through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Help Lisa walk worthy of you Lord, fully pleasing to you and may Lisa be fruitful in every good work and increasing in knowledge of you. I pray that Lisa may be strengthened with your power and might so that she will have endurance and patience each day. Amen

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