

Small Group Study

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people



Discussion

Your Kingdom Come: “Kingdom Justice”

Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

Matthew 25:31-46 (NLT):

31 “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

37 “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

40 “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

41 “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. 42 For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. 43 I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

44 “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

45 “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. Share a time when someone helped you out, served you in some way, or went out of their way to bless you. How did it make you feel?
2. If you had as much money and resources as you needed, and God asked you to start the ministry of your dreams, what would it be?
3. What injustice in the world breaks your heart more than any other? Why?

46 *“And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”*

James 2:14-17 (NLT):

14 *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?*

17 *So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

Questions

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

1. Have you noticed that as we allow Jesus to rule in our hearts, we begin to have the heart of Jesus for those who are suffering the most in our world? Would anyone care to share their own experience with this?
2. Look at verses 35 and 36 again. What are the ways Jesus expects us to serve the least of His brothers and sisters? What resources are needed to perform these services? What will serving in these ways cost Jesus' followers?
3. Do you think it is possible, as a general pattern of living, for a person to be a Christian yet avoid serving others? Why or why not?
4. Do you believe in eternal punishment for those who reject Jesus (vs. 46)? How does your belief affect your daily interactions with others? How do your beliefs affect your willingness to serve “the last, the lost, and the least?”
5. What are we doing as a group to encourage Kingdom-building service, especially through the ministries of our church? Should we do more?
6. Is the Lord calling you to perform a service that is inconvenient or risky? How are you responding? If you are not serving yet, what would help you respond to His call?

--

God bless,

Roger Sodsod

Small Group Pastor

email: rsodsod@vineyardkcnorth.com
