

Small Group Questions

February 10, 2019

Series: Starting Point Message: "What does it look like?"

This series continues in the Sermon on the Mount. The focus of this series is Jesus' vision for the church, i.e. us, because the church is followers of Jesus. The heart of God reaches out to all people, all the time. When we enter a relationship with Jesus, it's surprisingly easy to come to believe that the church is for me. Of course, we want to see people reached but our time with God can be focused on ourselves while we are unsure of how others will be reached. The mission of the Master must become the mission of His men, women and children. That does not mean debating or berating but reaching out with the same heart God has for all. There will come a day when it will be eternally too late. Until that day, may we express God's desire in positive actions and words to people who matter so much to Him.

An application to groups through this series can include having an outward focus. In a group, we can reach a place where we enjoy one another, and that's great. In addition to that, how can we, together, express God's reaching heart? That may be creating more space in the group. It might mean "birthing" a new group if our group is too large for new members to join. It might mean serving in Jesus' name in the community so that we engage people there. Perhaps your group can come up with a creative way different than any of those ideas. The spiritual adventure that changes so much happens when we move beyond ourselves and enter the world of people who have yet to meet and follow Jesus.

Thank you for what you do to care for all who are in and around your group. Know that you are making an eternal difference!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. As a kid, what family rule did you like to break? Why?
2. Who is really talented and really humble at the same time? What's your opinion of that combination of traits?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Matthew 5:17-20.

3. Why might Jesus have to explain His position on the Law and the Prophets (Law & Prophets is 1st century term for what we call the Old Testament)?
4. How does Jesus "accomplish" the "purpose" of the Law and the Prophets?
5. Why would Jesus reference the Pharisees and other religious leaders (:20) in a section that is heavy on the Kingdom of God?
6. From what you know about the Pharisees, how does their picture of righteousness contrast with what's described in :3 - 11?
7. What does Jesus mean when He speaks of a "righteousness (that is) better" than the religious leaders' righteousness? (:20)
8. How can a small group make what Jesus is describing a reality?

