

Small Group Discussion Guide — March 22, 2020

- Series: “Life in His Name”
 - Sermon: Finding Home
 - Scripture: John 14: 1-9 (NLT)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

How has Jesus worked in your “cave” this week? Can you see His hand at work?

CONNECT:

1. Are you still able to go home to the place where you grew up? Where is that?
2. When you think of “coming home,” what comes to mind? Are these pleasant memories or are there some hard memories attached to the idea of home for you?

ENGAGE:

1. Read John 14: 1-4.
 - Imagine you are one of Jesus’ disciples hearing Him say this at the time. What is your initial reaction? Fear? Confusion? Frustration? Acceptance? Explain.
 - What questions would you ask Jesus if you had been present at the time?
 - David talked about the disciples recognizing Jesus’ description as part of a Jewish betrothal, and that only the father can say when everything is ready and the time is right for the wedding to occur. What does this tell you about God’s heart? About Jesus?
2. Read John 14: 5-9.
 - What specific words does Jesus use that tell his disciples and us who he truly is? Do you think his disciples get what he is saying? Why or why not?
 - Jesus says there is only one way to the Father, through Him. Does that strike you as exclusive or arrogant? Explain.

APPLY:

1. Do you think of God and Jesus as the same or separate in power, authority, love, and mercy? Give examples of how you see them as the same. How do you see them as different? How does this scripture passage and David’s sermon change your view?
2. How could the realization that God is so much “bigger” change your prayer life? Do we tend to pray “small” prayers? How could we pray “bigger” to our “so big” God?
3. Jesus said that He is *the* Way, *the* Truth, and *the* Life. Where do you still try to find life, even though you know who Jesus is? How can this truth change your outlook in this time of uncertainty and fear?
4. Jesus said no one comes to the Father but through me. He also says in verse 3 “when everything is ready, I will come and get you...” What is ours to do while we wait for Jesus to come take us home? How are you spending your wait time?

PRAY:

Lord Jesus, you have told us that You and the Father are one - that if we know You, we know the Father. Help us, Lord, to spend our wait time learning to know you more and to shine your light in the lives of those who don't know you yet. Help us to live through these uncertain days in faith, not fear, to live into your peace, and to be guided by your Spirit to find ways to love and care for those who are isolated and alone. Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Jesus says to see Him is to see the Father, to know Him is to know the Father. Looking back over our study of John's gospel so far, what are some things we have seen and know about Jesus / God?
2. How would you explain to friends of other faiths that Jesus is the ONLY way to the Father? Have you ever had a conversation like that? If so, how did it go?
3. How has your spiritual life been changed by the COVID-19 outbreak and response? Is there something in your spiritual life you would still like to change? What is one step you can do to make that change?

SUPPORTING VERSES:

Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

"...for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

2 Cor 11:14

"I and the Father are one."

John 10:30

QUOTES:

"Chocolate Jesus" (Tom Waits)
Don't go to church on Sunday
Don't get on my knees to pray
Don't memorize the books of the Bible
I got my own special way
But I know Jesus loves me
Maybe just a little bit more
I fall on my knees every Sunday
At Zerelda Lee's candy store

Well it's got to be a chocolate Jesus
Make me feel good inside
Got to be a chocolate Jesus
Keep me satisfied

“We all live by default or design. We live in a world where just to drift is a disaster. And so, we find it’s Jesus who has the best knowledge - the best information - about how to live.”

- Dallas Willard

“A flood of emotions swept over me as I realized that the biblical record of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection was recorded accurately and was, in fact, true. The truth that Christ was God’s Son penetrated deep into my soul. I could no longer reject the reality of Christ and be intellectually honest with myself. I now recognized that I was not rejecting Christ for any intellectual reason, but for emotional reasons. I was slowly coming to grips with my rebellion and rejection of Christianity. I began to see that my life of sin was standing between me and a loving God who had sent his Son to die in my place.”

- Joshua McDowell

“Finding life means allowing the presence of Christ to plumb the depths of our false self and to abandon our false self to the cruciform love of God.”

- Robert Mulholland