

Small Group Guide: "Seeing Through God's Eyes"

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to open your hearts to see people the way He sees them, and to prepare you for the harvest He is bringing.

Icebreaker Question

****Share a time when someone saw potential in you that you didn't see in yourself. How did that impact your life?****

Key Scripture

****Luke 7:36-50**** - The story of Jesus at the Pharisee's house and the woman who anointed His feet.

Main Themes

1. ****The Two Labels Every Person Carries****

- "As Is" - our current broken condition
- "Made in His Image" - our eternal value and potential

2. ****The Power of Seeing Through God's Eyes****

- Jesus saw the woman not as she was, but as she was created to be
- Simon the Pharisee could only see her sin; Jesus saw her worth

3. ****Preparing for the End-Time Harvest****

- The coming revival will bring people who are "as is"
- We must learn to embrace them with supernatural love

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. ****What struck you most about the contrast between how Simon treated Jesus versus how the woman treated Him?****

2. **Why do you think the woman had the courage to enter the Pharisee's house and approach Jesus? What does this tell us about the power of Jesus' love?**

3. **Jesus said, "Those who are forgiven much, love much." How does remembering our own forgiveness change how we view others?**

Personal Reflection

4. **Be honest: Who are the people you find hardest to accept "as is"? What judgments do you carry about certain types of people?**

5. **The sermon mentioned that "the greatest sin of all is to think you don't have sin." How does pride prevent us from extending grace to others?**

6. **When was the last time you looked at someone and truly saw them "made in His image" rather than just their "as is" condition?**

Application to Daily Life

7. **What would it look like practically for you to "enlarge the sanctuary of your heart" this week?**

8. **The story of Teddy Stallard shows the power of one person seeing potential. Who in your life needs someone to see them differently? What specific action can you take?**

9. **How can we as a group prepare ourselves to receive the "end-time harvest" with the kind of love and acceptance Jesus demonstrated?**

Key Takeaways

✓ **Every person carries two tags: "As Is" and "Made in His Image"**

✓ **Jesus accepted us completely before we cleaned up - we must do the same for others**

✓ **The greatest lovers are those who know how much they've been forgiven**

✓ **Judgment is a barrier to the harvest God wants to bring**

✓ **When people look at us, they should see Jesus looking back at them**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Repentance Exercise

- Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal judgments you've made about others
- Write them down and specifically repent for each one
- Ask God to help you see those people through His eyes

Option 2: The "Teddy Stallard" Challenge

- Identify someone in your sphere who is overlooked, dismissed, or judged by others
- Take one specific action to show them they are seen and valued
- Look for the "made in His image" label rather than the "as is"

Option 3: Hospitality with Purpose

- Invite someone to your home or for coffee who wouldn't typically be on your list
- Practice the greeting and honor that Simon failed to give Jesus
- Listen to their story without judgment

Group Activity

"Seeing Exercise"

Pair up with someone in the group. Take turns sharing:

1. One way you see yourself as "as is" (a struggle or weakness)
2. One way your partner can remind you that you're "made in His image"

Then pray for each other, specifically asking God to help you both see people the way He sees them.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." - Luke 7:47 (NKJV)

Closing Reflection

Read this quote from the sermon aloud together:

""The greatest sin of all is to think you don't have sin. The greatest sin is the sin of lips that won't kiss, knees that won't bend, eyes that won't tear, hands that won't wash, and perfume that will never be poured out in worship to Him. The greatest sin of the soul is the sin of the heart - a heart too proud to break, a life that won't change, and a soul that won't love.""

****Question:**** How does this challenge your understanding of sin and righteousness?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- For soft hearts that can receive the "as is" people God brings
- For eyes to see "made in His image" in everyone
- For preparation for the coming harvest
- For freedom from judgment and pride
- For the courage to love extravagantly like the woman in Luke 7

Before Next Week

****Journal Prompt:**** Write about a time when you experienced Jesus looking at you with love despite your "as is" condition. How can that memory fuel your acceptance of others?

****Accountability:**** Share with one other group member which practical application you chose, and check in with each other during the week about how it's going.