



More Than Ever

November 23-24, 2019 | Todd Clark

This weekend, Pastor Todd encourages us on our mission and explains how "found people, find people."

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about a time in your life where you got lost. How did you find your way back? Was there someone who helped you find your way?
2. Talk about a time you didn't do something because you couldn't be perfect at it. How does perfectionism play itself out in your life?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. The only thing you can take with you to heaven is other people.
2. Found people, find people.
3. Because we don't know "everything" we are fearful of sharing anything.
4. Being skeptical or battling unbelief does not disqualify you from following Jesus. It's actually a prerequisite.
5. We don't start at scratch with anyone - We just join God where He is already working.
6. It's great to come to church, but it's better to go be the Church.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: John 1:43-49; 1 Corinthians 2:1-4

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that resonated with you. What made it stick with you?
2. Pastor Todd explains through the use of a football analogy that everyone is in a different quarter of life in their relationship with Jesus. While you might be in your fourth quarter, someone else is in their first quarter. Can you recall what your first quarter with Jesus was like? Who helped you get there? Talk about that with your group and what that experience was like.
3. Read John 9:1-25 aloud together. Read slowly, making a note of any words or phrases that stand out to you. Pastor Todd notes that we often don't share our faith because the fear of not knowing "everything". How does the story of the man born blind change the way we handle that fear? Note the significance in simply sharing *your* story.
4. Talk about why your story is important. "I was blind, but now I see" (see 9:25). You may not have all the answers, but you do have your testimony of God's transformation in *you*. Talk about the significance in having a story of your own.
5. Read aloud together the rest of the story of the man born blind in John 9:26-34. Note the response of the Jews to the man's story. Though he shared his story, the Jews still rejected him. Does the fear of being rejected ever play a part in us not sharing our personal stories of Jesus rescuing us? Talk about what we can learn from the man born blind whom Jesus healed and how we can deal with rejection.
6. I heard someone say once, "It's not our responsibility to save people. It's our responsibility to leave them without an excuse." Oftentimes, we get caught up thinking it's our job to rescue people. But we know only Jesus has the power to save. Talk about the pressures and fears this truth frees you from. How might recognizing this change the way you currently approach talking about your faith?
7. Pastor Todd explains how we never start at scratch with anyone, but that God is already working behind the scenes in people's lives when we come into contact with them. How might this idea impact the way we see and interact with people? Who is that person in your life currently that you've overlooked or avoided because it seemed like God wasn't working behind the scenes in their life? Try and identify that one person (if any) and share it with your group.

8. Pastor Todd talks shares the story of Jesus inviting Phillip to come see Him, in order that Phillip would eventually invite Nathanael to do the same. When Phillip does invite Nathanael, he is skeptical and unbelieving. Yet, Phillip doesn't argue, but simply says, "Come and see." In what ways can you begin to start saying "Come and see" in your life? Talk specifically about how you can extend the same invitation to that person you identified just earlier with your group. Discuss how you can encourage one another to carry out these convictions and how you might hold one another to *being* the Church this week.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for rescuing us when we were lost and curing our blindness. Thank you for the people you've placed in our lives to point us towards your saving grace. As we go out into our workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities this week, give us the courage and boldness of love to invite others to come and see Jesus. Strengthen us when we are rejected and help us remember how good the news of Jesus really is. We love you.

Amen.