

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR: IT'S NOT ABOUT ME - MARCH 5, 2023

PRIMARY PASSAGES:

28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that He answered them well, asked Him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:28-31 (ESV)

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:16-20 (ESV)

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. - James 1:16-18 (ESV)

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. - Romans 7:15-20 (ESV)

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. - Romans 8:5-6 (ESV)

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. - Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Based on Jesus' Great Commandment and Great Commission, the mission of Immanuel Church is to "Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."
2. One of the biggest barriers to living our lives for Jesus and His mission is because we embrace an "It's all about me" mentality, when in reality, "It's Not About Me."
3. We need to constantly rely upon the Holy Spirit's power in our life to help us accomplish the mission Jesus has sent us on.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you and some friends accomplished a mission together. What was the mission and what did it take to accomplish it?
2. In what ways do you see an “It’s all about me” mentality creeping into your life? What has been the result when you have done things with this mentality? What do you wish you did differently?
3. Why is it important to remember that “God is good all the time” and that “Every good thing comes from Him?” What are you most tempted to look to for satisfaction rather than God and His goodness? When is God’s goodness most difficult to hang onto? How do you help your heart remember God’s goodness even when you are going through a painful or difficult circumstance?
4. Apart from the Holy Spirit, we are POWERLESS to overcome sin and to love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit, we can live POWERFUL lives that love Jesus and obey His commands. According to Romans 8:5-6 and Philippians 4:8-9, what should we do to connect with and live in the power of the Holy Spirit?
5. In what ways do you need the Holy Spirit’s power in your life as you seek to love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ this week?

Thank You, Father, and thank You, Jesus, for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit. Help us walk with You as we remember that “It’s not about me,” but rather all about God! Father, You are worthy of our lives. Jesus, You are better than anything that we seek to be satisfied in this world. Holy Spirit, You are the giver of true and abundant life, so fill us with Your power and Your peace as we follow Your lead. - Amen.

