



Radiant: Week 7

The Ladder or the Cross?

Dan Jarrell, November 17, 2019

Small Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

Philippians 3:1-11

1. What encouragements and challenges does Paul offer in these verses?
2. How does Paul describe his past achievements when compared to knowing Christ?

Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.

3. The “dogs – men who do evil” in verse 2 are most likely a group called the *Judaizers* – Jewish Christians who thought that what they *did* (circumcision – cutting or mutilating the flesh) made them believers rather than the free gift of grace given by Christ. What believers do is a *result of their faith*, not a *prerequisite* to faith.
 - Who are the *Judaizers* of our day, who say that people must add something else to faith for salvation?
4. During his message, Dan contrasts *The Way of the Ladder* and *The Way of the Cross*:

THE WAY OF THE LADDER

- *Self exalting and self promoting.*
- *Pursuing temporary gain only to achieve infinite and permanent loss.*
- *A life of slavery.*
- *A legacy of “waste.”*
- *An eternity of regret, hopelessness, “death,” and emptiness excluded from the presence of God.*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

- *Self surrendering and Christ dependent.*
- *Enduring temporary loss only to receive infinite and permanent gain.*
- *A life of freedom and power.*
- *A legacy of faith and hope.*
- *An eternity of joy, wonder, growth, and substance in unobstructed relationship with God.*

- How would you succinctly describe this contrast in your own words?
 - Where is it easy to embrace *The Way of the Ladder*?
5. Paul gave up everything – family, friendship, and freedom – in order to know Christ and his resurrection power. Knowing Christ is more than worth the sacrifice. What have you had to sacrifice in order to be obedient to Christ? Was it worth it?

Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.

6. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**** Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today ****

We're here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!

Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, michaelw@changeointalaska.com