

John 2:23-25

CG Discussion Guide// Week of October 30, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- Icebreaker: Who was your favorite teacher/professor and why?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Harbor Network sister church to pray for: Franklin City Church, Franklin, IN (Lead Pastor: Grant Walker)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Vv. 23: Jesus performed more miraculous signs in this Jerusalem Passover that was recorded in John, and as a result, many people "believed in His name."
 - How would you react if you see or experience a genuine, "classic/old-school" miracle from the Lord happened?
 - If you have experienced one, praise the Lord! Could you share that testimony if you are willing?
 - How would most people react?
- Vv. 24: However, Jesus did not "entrust Himself to them." (The original Greek for "entrust" is the same one for "believe, trust, have faith in" in John and the NT). Why? Jesus knew all people.
 - The previous verse just stated that many people believed in Jesus' name due to Jesus' signs. Why wouldn't that be enough?
 - Think about the miracles recorded in both the OT and NT. How often did the witnesses come to lasting faith and trust in God and Christ?
- Vv. 25: Why not trust people's understanding of themselves? Jesus knew what was in men's hearts.
 - What does it imply about the nature of Jesus that He "knew all people" and "knew what was in man"? Is it just tremendous insight or much more?
 - What is it about human nature and human hearts that "prevented" Jesus from entrusting Himself to them?
 - How would that inform how we view ourselves and other people? Are we to be cynical about people?
 - Think about this: Jesus knew He couldn't trust people or their hearts, but He still took on flesh for us and our salvation.
 - Why would he? (cf. John 3:16) What does that teach us about how we ought to treat and minister to people?

Abide Time: John 2:23-25

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in your reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- October 30: Child + Family Dedication
- November 4: Deacons Dinner
- November 9: Harbor Network Renewal Gathering
- November 13: Baptism Sunday
- November 30: Members Meeting

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.