

Connection Group Questions

For the week of January 12, 2025

This Week's Message: Let There Be No Doubt He Is Lord

Passages: John 4:43-54

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. The month of January is considered the most disliked month of the year. Mainly because of long dark days, extremely cold temperatures and snow, and post-holiday let-downs. Is there anything that you do love about January?

Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read John 4:43-54. Jesus heals the royal official's son.**
 - Are there any aspects from Sunday's message or these verses that stand out to you?
3. **In verses 44-45, Jesus intentionally travels to Galilee, knowing that He would be misunderstood.**
 - How do you envision the Galileans' welcoming reception and the motive of the hearts of those who were drawn to Jesus?
 - Why did Jesus point out that people need to see signs and wonders?
 - Consider how these motives and behaviors equate with those who hold wealth, power, and position in today's world. Read Proverbs 19:4; Prov. 19:6; Prov. 14:20.
4. **Refer to John 2:23-25. At the Passover Festival, Jesus is fully aware of what was in the heart of man, therefore, He would not entrust Himself.**
 - Explain the difference between one who believes that Jesus can (and did) perform miracles vs. someone who believes in Him for salvation.
 - What are some easy ways that we can be found guilty of having a wrong motive in following Jesus? Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 10:43-45. John 6:22-26
 - What do you think keeps us from seeing God's glory?
5. **Read verses 46-50. Though deemed important in rank, the royal official didn't send one of his people to Jesus. It was his own desperation that led him to Christ in person.**
 - Discuss how Jesus put the man in a position where he was forced to go with only the assurance of Jesus' word.
 - Can you recall a time when you exchanged desperation or worry for fully trusting God?
6. **How would you describe "genuine" or "authentic" faith? Read Hebrews 11:1.**
 - What is its purpose or goal?
 - What are the markings of genuine faith and how is it lived in the life of a believer?
7. **Read verses 51-53. The royal official intentionally seeks to know if this healing is from the Lord and then sees that Jesus' words have proved true.**
 - What is it about this particular sign that clearly demonstrates that Jesus is Lord?
8. **In verse 54, the man's entire household, in the end, believed.**
 - Explain the importance of having a profound trust in Jesus confirmed in our lives that can make an impact and produce great faith in those who observe our changes.
 - How is this a good reminder to genuinely live out our faith in a way that is visible to others? Read Matthew 5:16.

Application For the Week

Without his sick son, the royal official probably wouldn't have thought much about Jesus and certainly wouldn't have walked 16 miles to see Him. Those who are troubled, burdened, or in desperation are often in a position where they allow their suffering to soften their hearts toward repentance. This week, if you meet someone like the royal official, involve yourself in their life as an act of Christ's love, but always use the encounter as an opportunity to point them to Jesus. It would be sad if God softened their hearts in their adversity, only to find we didn't use it as an opportunity to share the saving grace of the gospel.

How Your Group Can Pray This Week

In John 6:68-69, Simon Peter says, *"To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know you are the Holy One of God."* When we're desperate for something, we'll go to great lengths to find it. But is your heart desperate for our Savior for who He is and who He says He is ... not just for what you can get from Him to make your life better? This week, pray, asking God to anchor us in His truth with pure motives, and fill our hearts with peace and joy even amid adversity. Pray with trust, believing He is always enough.