

Stories of the Kingdom Discussion Questions
08.20.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Why do you think it is important to challenge our own preconceived ideas about people or groups that are different than us?
2. Tell us about a time when you were surprised when someone did something you were not expecting.

Background

The passage we are looking at this week is another parable that Jesus told to point out that the religious leaders had missed the mark on how they lived. Living in Israel in the first century were many foreigners and those who did not follow YHWH the one true God, but in the minds of the Jews the lowest of these groups of people were the Samaritans. They were thought of as people who were trying to lure others away from the true faith. The Samaritans believed that the holiest site in Israel was at Jacob's well and they built a compound near there including a temple to worship at. They also had their own set of religious leaders. Jews often would walk many extra miles to avoid walking through Samaria on their trips between the northern and southern parts of Israel (Samaria sits right along the main north/south road). So, when Jesus uses the Samaritan as the "good guy" in his story it would have challenged the long standing biases of the Jews he was speaking to and possibly our own today.

When the parable mentions a priest and a Levite Jesus was highlighting the very top of the religious leaders in Israel. In theory these should have been men who most exemplified what meant to follow the law.

Read Luke 10:25-37

Questions:

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What two questions the expert in the law asked Jesus?
2. What did the priest and the Levite do when they passed the man who had been robbed and beaten?
3. What does the Samaritan do for the man who has been robbed and beaten?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. How would you reply to the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"?
2. What does it mean to be someone's neighbor based on this parable?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. If Jesus were telling this parable to you who would he put into the story in place of the Samaritan, the priest and the Levite?

2. How do we follow the example of the Good Samaritan in our day-to-day lives?
3. How is Jesus the power to live a new way?
4. How does he give us the pattern to live a new way?

Closing

The world is filled with examples of what happens when we decide those who are not like are to be feared or worse to be hurt. The world is also full of examples of people who saw what was happening and did nothing about it. Spend time praying together for the wisdom, courage and strength of character to take a stand for what is right and to love like Jesus.

Reminder: Stories are a crucial element used to help us connect with others, know where we came from and where we are going. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven it is critical for us to know and tell our stories as they remind us of who saved us, what he has left us to do and where we will spend eternity.