

Stories of the Kingdom Discussion Questions 7.02.17

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. Share a story about an experience you had that revealed God's character to you.
2. What are some elements of God's character that are especially meaningful to you?

Background

The story we are going to look at is the last in a series of stories about the effort that people will put in to finding something (or someone) who is lost. These stories follow Jesus's warning to the crowds following him about the cost of associated with him. Jesus tells those listening a story about two sons, but the story reveals as much about the character of the father. This story gives us a window into the character of our God and how his love has motivated him to give us extravagant gifts. The way the Father treats us his children does not always make sense to those who do not understand his love.

Read Luke 15:11-32

Questions

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

1. How does the father respond to his younger son's request to receive his share of the estate?
2. What does the younger son do with his inheritance?
3. What causes the younger son to decide to go home?
4. How does his father respond when he sees his son returning home?
5. What is the older brother's response when he finds out his brother has come home?

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

1. How would you retell this story to capture the essence of it but bring it into our modern context?
2. What does this story reveal about the way God loves us? How does knowing how much God loves you change your behavior?
3. What perspective do we need to have to avoid reacting like the older brother?

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

1. How has the experience of being extravagantly loved by the Father altered how you treat the people in your life?
2. How can we emulate the Father's compassion and joy when we encounter those who are seeking him?

Closing

Just as the father in this parable celebrated the return of his younger son, so our Father in heaven celebrates those who turn to him. Pray for one another that we would each be a true reflection of the Father's love and joy to the people in our lives.

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.