Stories of the Kingdom Discussion Questions

08.05.17

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 a time someone gave you a valuable item to take care of while they were away. What did you do with it?
2. What do you do when someone trusts you with something they value?

Background

On Jesus’s last trip to Jerusalem before his crucifixion when he went to the Temple it he overturned the tables of the money changers and used it as a teaching opportunity. The story we are studying is part of the series of stories Jesus told after that encounter and after making a point by cursing the fig tree that was not bearing fruit. These stories highlight the fact that the return of Messiah is certain, but the timing is unknown. The story we are studying is in this series and focuses on what we do with what we have been given. The story opens with “Again, it will be like…” The “it” refers to the kingdom of heaven and is part of what ties the four stories in this series together.

Read Matthew 25:14-30

Questions

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

1. Why are different amounts of gold given to each servant?
2. What did each of the servants do with the gold?
3. How did the master respond to each of the servants when he returned?

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

1. What does it reveal about God’s character that he takes our abilities into account when giving us things to do?
2. In your own words, why was the 3rd servant in the wrong?
3. Talk about what motivated the servants. How were they motivated by different things?
4. How is Jesus the ultimate faithful servant?

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

1. Take time as a group affirming what one another has been given. You might take a minute or two per person and as a group share what gifts, abilities, talents, etc they’ve been given.
2. Is there anything you think you may have buried?
3. What helps you stay in a place motivated by “the Master’s joy” more than fear?
4. What is one risk you feel called to take in this season that scares you?

Closing

As you close your time together spend a few minutes sharing what you are going to do this week to step out and invest what you have been given. Also, pray together for the pastors and other leaders as they embark on new and exciting adventure as Christian officially gets started as the lead pastor.

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.