

Stories of the Kingdom Discussion Questions
08.13.17

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. What does greed look like? How do we avoid getting caught up in it?
2. Share a story of a time when you were the recipient of someone's generosity.

Background

Most likely, Jesus was in the area around the Sea of Galilee and surrounded by a crowd of many thousands when the interaction captured in this passage took place. Jesus had been teaching the people about a number of things, including how to pray. He had told them many stories and given them warnings about what was to come. Jesus also shared a meal with a Pharisee, and during the meal Jesus had stern words for the pharisees and they began plotting against him. In this section someone from the crowd calls out to Jesus and tells him to direct his brother to share his inheritance.

Read Luke 12:13-21

Questions

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

1. How did Jesus respond to the request from the man in the crowd?
2. In the parable Jesus told the man had an abundant harvest, what does he decide to do with the extra from his harvest?
3. What is God's response to the man's desire to keep all the abundant harvest for himself?

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

1. If life does not consist of an abundance of things, what does life consist of and how do we stay focused on that?
2. How would you tell the parable in a modern context? What is at the heart of the story?
3. Why do you think God responds so sharply to the man in the parable?

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

1. How can we avoid the temptations of greed and envy? Is it wrong to work hard for money to buy nice things?
2. How do we build awareness so that when we find ourselves with an abundance we are aware of those to share it with?
3. How can we cultivate a generous heart? How can we ensure we recognize the moments when we have an abundance and look for ways to share with those around us?

Closing

Spend time as you finish your evening together praying for one another. Focus on those areas of life where it is easy to let greed creep in and take root. Also, continue to pray for the leadership team and pastors (including the Lindbeck family) as get to know one another and build relationships during this time of transition.

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.