

Stronger Discussion Questions
03.11.18

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 is one of the most meaningful things you've ever given away?
2. Have you ever met someone famous, or perhaps someone you looked up to, and asked them on advice on how to live? What did they say?

Background

This encounter between the rich, young ruler and Jesus takes place along the road as Jesus and the disciples were on their way somewhere. Mark does not give any details about where Jesus was headed because the important part of the story is the interaction and not the location. This exchange is different than some of the others we have looked at during this series as here we see Jesus respond to this young man's request with some questions of his own. Also, the end of the story is not a changed life, but rather a lesson on the impossibility of serving two masters. Mark does make it clear though that Jesus's motivation is his love for this young man.

Read Mark 10:17-25

Questions

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

1. What question does the rich, young ruler ask Jesus?
2. How does Jesus respond to the question asked by the rich, young ruler?
3. Look at the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1 – 17. How does Jesus' list in verse 19 compare to the Ten Commandments?
4. What did Jesus tell the rich, young ruler he needed to do?
5. What did Jesus tell the disciples when the rich, young ruler walked away sad?

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

1. How would you respond to someone who asked you what they needed to do to inherit eternal life? How does your answer mesh with what Jesus said here?
2. Why do you suppose it isn't enough to just follow "the rules"?
3. Jesus wasn't a family member of this young man's but deeply cared about him and cared about him enough to challenge him to God's best for him. Who in your life has loved you the way Jesus loved this young man?
4. How would you explain Jesus's command to the rich, young ruler to someone who does not know Jesus?
5. Do you think wealth is a sign of God's pleasure? Why or why not?
6. What things other than wealth can keep us from following Jesus?

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

1. What most challenges you about this passage?
2. What is the good news for you in this passage?
3. Is there anything specifically where Jesus is asking you to change your thinking or actions from this passage?
4. What steps do you feel invited to take to be sure your wealth does not keep you from inheriting eternal life?
5. Consider as a group all choosing a simple action this week that you might do to practice putting Jesus before our things. For example, perhaps everyone agrees to sell one thing that they care about over the next week and give the money for the poor. It doesn't need to be a big thing, but some simple act of generosity you all do and then debrief the experience at your next small group time.

Closing

Spend a few minutes as you finish your time together praying for one another. Pray that each of us would see the people in our lives the way Jesus saw the rich, young ruler and that we would be motivated by love for them. That our love would shine through and we would let them know the truth of what was keeping them from inheriting eternal life.

Reminder: The Good News is Jesus is stronger. He is stronger than temptation, he is stronger than sin, and he is stronger than death. Nothing stands between Jesus and his Father! Jesus has made a way for that to be true for us as well.