

Stronger Discussion Questions
03.18.18

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. Do you wear glasses or contacts? Tell about when you first learned you needed them.
2. Share a story of a time when you received clarity about how to move forward after a time of not knowing the way.

Background

This story comes at the close of this section that begins in 8:21 and acts as a living parable in the book of Mark. The Jews believed YHWH was the God who would lead them on "the way." Jesus was teaching his disciples the way of Jesus as they were on the way to Jerusalem. Mark includes several of Peter's stories that took place during this final journey along the way to Jerusalem. The encounter between Jesus and blind Bartimaeus closes this section as Jesus and his disciples are in Jericho. Jesus heals a man of blindness so that he can follow him on "the way."

Read Mark 10:46-52

Questions

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

1. Who was with Jesus on the road heading out of Jericho?
2. How did the crowd respond to Bartimaeus?
3. How did Jesus respond to Bartimaeus?
4. What did Bartimaeus ask for from Jesus?
5. What was the significance of him throwing his cloak aside?
6. What did Bartimaeus response to being healed signify?

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

7. When you imagine this story which character do you most naturally identify with?
8. How would you summarize the way of Jesus?
9. What is a key verse from Mark that captures the way of Jesus for you?
10. Who in your life has treated you the way Jesus treated Bartimaeus?

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

1. How do you lean into Jesus's approach of engaging with the people along the road and making it possible for those without sight to see?
2. How might you use the story of blind Bartimaeus as a means to share your own story of restored sight?
3. How has following Jesus on "the way" changed your approach to living in this world?

4. Where do you feel a need to cry out for the mercy of Jesus either on your behalf or on behalf of others?
5. If Jesus sat down next you today and asked, "what do you want me to do for you?" how would you answer him?

Closing

Take time to pray together that we would each see clearly so that we can follow Jesus as he leads us on "the way." Also, be praying for clarity around who you might invite to Easter service so they can hear the Good News that Jesus is stronger than all that weighs us down and he has conquered death to make a way for us.

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.