

Discussion Guide

Opening Reflection: Have you thought about how implausible it was for the disciple’s mission to actually become successful?

Have you ever thought about the role of the Holy Spirit in this mission? Knowing that we aren’t alone in Christ’s mission but the Holy Spirit has been sent on the same mission, what hope and comfort does that give you in regards to carrying out Christ’s mission?

⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong (The old NIV translated it .. convict. He would convict the world ...) about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

1. Did your journey to faith follow the outline presented by Jesus in John 16 or was it different? God first began to elevate your thought life. You began to question things. God began to stir you on the inside. Then God began to change how you thought about sin, righteousness, and judgement. You finally found peace when you put your faith in Jesus.

If not, how did you come to faith in Jesus? If you haven’t come to faith yet, what is God stirring in you right now? What questions are you mulling over?

2. Have you ever had to get rough with a loved one because they had become deluded, or were involved in self-destructive behavior? What did you do? Or, are you an enabler: You find it hard to get rough and speak the truth to your loved ones. Do you tend to remain silent about the “elephant in the room or are you able to confront people over destructive behavior?”
3. Before you were a Christian what was your view of sin? ...of righteousness (getting right with God)? ... of judgement? ... of the spirit world and afterlife? How has your view of the above changed over the years?
4. What difference does it make how we view sin, righteousness and judgement?
5. Read Romans 1:16-17 What comfort does it offer you?
6. Of the two errors people make about their own righteousness, do you tend to feel superior to the average person, meaning you believe you are better than the average person, or do you tend to feel inferior to others, meaning you feel you are worse than the average person?

How has the Holy Spirit worked in your life to address your feelings of superiority or feelings of inferiority?

"The Mission of the Spirit"

John 16: 5-11

6/12/22

7. Of these two, which do you struggle with more: feeling forgiven or angry over God allowing bad things to happen to you now and then?
8. Read Romans 8:1. What comfort does it bring?
9. Do most people believe in the existence of evil and/or the demonic? If not, how do they explain the horrendous things people do to each other like massacring children, the murdering and mutilating of a person, and the incredible increase in gun violence in our country?
10. How does the belief in the existence of evil inform our approach to social issues? Is this the only angle by which we should view social problems?
11. What's your experience with evil or the demonic? Do you believe they exist? Or do you believe evil is more of a general force in the world, or the result of poor choices?
12. Read Luke 4:6-8; 11:20-22 and Colossians 2:15. They all talk about the devil, his powers, and what Christ has done to him. Reflect on them.

I don't spend much time talking about the devil. I tend to focus on Jesus and the Gospel more. I'm not the type that sees the devil everywhere or to blame everything on the devil and evil. Scripture says both are real so we need to be aware of this part of reality and allow it to inform what we do.

13. Read John 10:10. How do you see this verse being played out today?
14. Final thought... Anything you want to talk about that God has stirred in you recently?