



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: John: Don't miss the forest for the trees - John 5:31-47

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

The season of Lent is here. What is something you have done in the past to help you reflect, focus, and pursue Jesus during this season? Do you have any specific plans to help guide you this year?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Steve repeatedly mentioned the phrase "Don't miss the forest for the trees." What did he mean by that? In what ways can we be guilty of doing that?
2. Do you think it's possible to lose our love for God while remaining consistently religious in our practice? Have you ever experienced this before?
3. The Jews meticulously studied scripture, yet rejected Jesus. How is it possible to study scripture, yet reject Christ?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 5:31-47]

Why does verse 24 teach us about salvation?

What does it mean to "pass from death into life?" (vs. 24)

Why would Jesus' testimony about Himself not be valid? (vs 31)

How did John testify to the truth? (vs. 32)

What 3 evidences does Jesus point to to prove that He is from God? (vs. 33-39)

How are Jesus' works greater than the witness of John the Baptist? (vs. 35-36)

Read vs 31 and 34. How can we reconcile these 2 seemingly contradicting statements?

What was the result of the Jews study of scripture? (vs. 40)

Questions that help us understand the significance of the text to us?

Read Deuteronomy 19:15. Jesus offers testimony in keeping with the Mosaic standard for a court of law. What is Jesus trying to accomplish by offering these witnesses?

What do you think about Jesus' statement in verse 40? Do you know people like this, who refuse to believe in Jesus despite all the evidence?

Though the Jews prided themselves on their performance of the law of Moses, Jesus said that Moses would actually accuse them. (vs. 45) In what ways does our pride and performance in obeying God and His word actually keep you from believing Jesus?

APPLICATION

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?