



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE 'GOOD' CHURCH: Nurtures Christ-likeness

GETTING STARTED

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

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

In what way have you underestimated the power of the environment (whether it be a family, organization, work or church) to transform who you are?

How can you imagine that a church (or individuals) lose sight of helping form Christ-likeness in us that it can create a culture, or chance things, priorities that end up becoming toxic?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

What in your words is "Christ-likeness"?

How do you recognize Christ-likeness in others, in yourself?

In what ways can we get off track, "over-complicate" faith if we do not "walk in the same way which he walked"?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 John 1:5-2:14]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What message did the writer hear and declare? (1:5)

What inconsistency did John address? (1:6)

What results from "walking in the light"? (1:7)

How were some believers apparently deceiving themselves? (1:8)

What is the result of confessing one's sins? (1:9)

In what way can a person make God out to be a liar? (1:10)

Why did John write this letter? (2:1)

For whom is Jesus an atoning sacrifice? (2:2)

What test did John describe for knowing whether or not a person truly knows God? (2:3-6)

What did John say he was giving to his readers? (2:7-8)

How are claiming to be a Christian and loving one's fellow Christians related? (2:9-11)

Why did John write to "the dear children"? (2:12-13)

Why did John write to "the fathers"? (2:13-14)

Why did John write to "the young men"? (2:13-14)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What do you think the terms "light" and "darkness" represent?

How can we "walk in the light"?

Why would someone claim that he or she was without sin?

What role does the confession of sins play in your daily life?

From this passage what are the opponents of the gospel doing that does not look like Jesus?

What does the way in which we treat other believers reveal about us?

What confidence does Jesus' atoning death give to us?

What area do you need to surrender your life to Christ in order to walk, imitate Him? Consider the areas we covered in this series which Jesus walked in...

(Empathy/compassion, grace, putting people first, telling the truth, promoting justice and serving others)

APPLY THE PASSAGE

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?