



DISCUSSION GUIDE

UNCHAINED FROM THE CROWD

GETTING STARTED

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

Do you like or dislike crowds? Why or why not?

What “crowds” currently encircle your life? (anyone, anything that affects your thoughts, beliefs, behavior and emotions)

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 are your reactions to the video Dave posted at the beginning of the service? Would you have stood when the buzzer beeped? What does that social experiment mean for us?

In what ways was Jesus skeptical of the crowds? Why?

In what ways did Jesus model for us a healthy separateness from the crowds in order to truly influence them?

In what way can our need for approval, acceptance and validation from “the crowds” chain us to them?

What would Jesus say to you in terms of who you are listening to, while also moving in compassion towards them?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 2:23-25]

How did the people respond to Jesus’ miracles? (2:23)

Why didn’t Jesus trust them?

What was Jesus’ response to those who believed in Him? (2:24-25)

NOW, Go back and read 2:13-23

Why did Christ overturn the tables? What motivated him to do this even when it would not endear him to the crowd?

How does the context of Jesus clearing the temple relate to “unchaining ourselves from the crowd”?

How do you reconcile the difference between Jesus overturning the tables and His response to the crowd in Matthew 9:35-38?

In what way can you begin to be more skeptical of the “crowds” in your life without losing compassion for people in the crowds?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

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

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?