

Small Group Study

Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people

Discussion

Building Kingdom People: Enjoying God

Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

Psalms 67 and Revelation 5:8-14

Introduction

The author, John Piper, wrote the following:

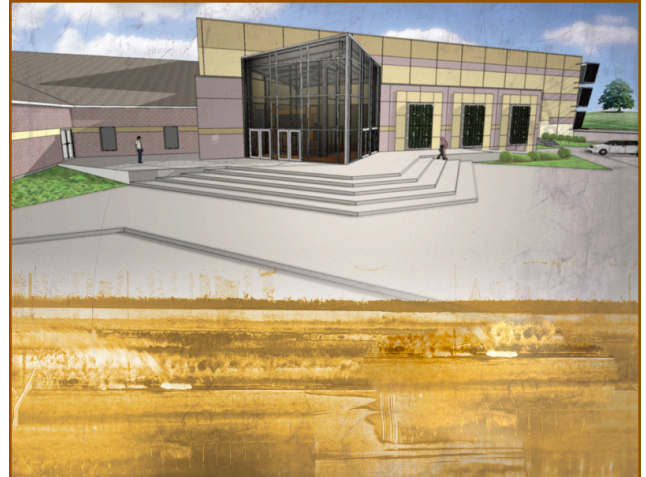
"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Mission exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever."

We must begin everything with worship and the longing to see the Triune God acknowledged and adored. It was what humans were created for, and there is an intimate connection between worship and mission. Those who worship this missionary God inevitably feel a compulsion to be involved in his mission in the world.

The prophet Isaiah wrote in verses 43:5-7:

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. I will say to the north and south, 'Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.'"

All those who have a heart for God and his glory long to see all God's creation worship him in spirit and in truth, because they are the kind of people God the Father is looking for (John 4: 23-24).



Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. If you could spend the rest of your life doing 3 activities, what would they be?
2. If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, for 2 weeks, where would you go and what would you do there?
3. If you could change one thing in the world what would it be?

Questions

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

1. What stood out to you in this week's sermon?
2. What stands out to you in the scriptures we just read?
3. What do you think is the connection between worship and missions? How can we think of one in light of the other?
4. All of life is worship. All of life is missions. How do you react to this statement? How can this be true? And what are the implications to these statements?
5. "My life is a reflection of what I believe about God." In what ways would this be true? In what ways is it not? Would your spouse answer differently if we were to ask her/him?
6. It is important to have a private worship life and to regard the places we work, live, and play as our mission field. For the encouragement of the group, would a couple people share ways they have incorporated either or both of these ideas into their own lives?

God bless,

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