

Small Group Study

Jesus' Presence

From the sermon series, "Making Disciples of Jesus"

AGENDA

- Allow people to arrive, talk, and snack – 15 min.
- Open in prayer – 30 sec.
- Thank everyone for coming. Go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer one of the icebreaker questions. – 15-20 min.
- Show DVD – 8 minutes
- Discussion – 30 minutes
- Discuss servant evangelism project if needed.
- Prayer – 15-20 minutes
- Hang out and eat snacks – 15 minutes

DISCUSSION

Have a volunteer read the following scripture:

John 14:12

I (Jesus) tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

1. In his sermon this week, Fred discussed the role Jesus' presence plays in bringing people into a relationship with Him. He broke it down into 4 topics: divine appointments, power encounters, supernatural insights, and worship. First, divine appointments... Colossians 4:5 reads, "*Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.*" A divine appointment could be described as when someone God intentionally brings across your path either for you to spiritually encourage or to encourage you. Share a time when you experienced a divine appointment. What kinds of things do we need to do to be more available for God to use us in this way?
2. Sometimes when we are connecting with people, they may share a need with us which then leads us to ask, "Can I pray for you?" And it's through prayer that God sometimes moves in a powerful way to bring about healing, deliverance, salvation, etc. This would be a "power encounter". This can happen any place: church, work, store, your child's soccer game, etc. Share a time when you prayed for someone in a non-traditional locale. How do you pray for someone at such a location in a natural, "non-weird" way? Also, if someone has a "power encounter" story to share, go ahead and share it!
3. As we are praying for someone, we are listening on two levels: a natural level and a supernatural level. We are listening to them as they are telling us what they want prayer for, but we're also asking the Holy Spirit to give us supernatural insight into how we can pray for them. It may be a word, a picture, a scripture, a sense of knowing, or even a certain question to ask, but the Holy Spirit wants to be actively involved when we are

Icebreakers

Use the questions below 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. What are some of your favorite fall activities?
2. What's one of the strangest things that has ever happened to you?
3. What was one of your favorite presents you received as a kid?

praying for people. What has been your experience with this? Do you have any questions about this? Do you have any stories to share?

4. The fourth way in which Jesus' presence can lead people into relationship with Him is through worship. Time and again at Vineyard Church, people have first experienced the presence of God through the power of worship. It is one of the reasons we have it at the front end of our services, because it is such a high value for us in the Vineyard. And we love seeing people, especially the unchurched, experience Jesus' presence. How did worship play a part in your coming to faith in Jesus Christ? Talk a bit about your experience in worship and how you might have experienced Jesus' presence at our weekend celebrations.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Continue to pray for the people on your list.
2. Do your scratch-off card if you haven't done it already.
3. Decide on a service project if you haven't already. The list of service projects at the church is on our website: vineyardkcnorth.com or feel free to do one on your own.

PRAYER

This might be a good week to break into smaller groups for prayer. While praying, be sure to allow times of silence to discern how the Holy Spirit might be leading you to pray.

Blessings,
Roger Sodsod