



ADVENT 2017

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 1: HE.

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during you own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (How does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: John 1:1-3, 18

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. In your own words, how does God's choice to send his Son affect the meaning of the message of the Gospel?
2. Justin said that the end for which you were made is loving relationship with the Father. If this is true, how might that affect the way you go about "growing in Christ"?

3. Justin taught that God is the most lovely and lovable thing in the universe. Have you ever thought about Him that way? What does it mean that the more you love him, the more he gives, as opposed to an idol who only takes more and more?
4. If our ultimate end is to love God and God is the most lovely thing in the universe, then it follows that all of God's activity demonstrates his loveliness and our need for him. What are some ways that you have seen God demonstrate his loveliness to you?
5. The cross illustrates the collision between the unrelenting desire of God to be with us and His uncompromising vision for the kind of relationship he desires to have with us. How have you experienced the grace of God in this way? Has he shown you both how much he wants relationship and the fact that he won't settle for a shallow version of it?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. If God sent his Son so that we might know him, how will you pursue that kind of knowledge this week?

2. Can you identify some other things that you have functionally treated as the most important thing? How has that ended up?
3. This week, when you find yourself loving something that isn't God to a degree that only God deserves, how will you react?
4. This week, write down all the ways that God reveals his loveliness to you and share them next week with your DNA partners.
5. Is there a relationship in your life that you have allowed to stop existing or have allowed to regress to shallowness? What will you do to reconcile this relationship this week?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?