

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Game Time” (pt. 1) – 8/10/2014

Scripture: John 12:20-26

Bottom Line: Our vision is to be a church where all see Jesus.

INTRODUCTION: Everyone needs direction. Everyone needs to know the vision around which they are to build their life. As we read the Bible, we see that the vision of the early church and of Jesus was that all might see and come to know him. This is because redemption is not a list of rules to follow but a person in which we must rely. His name is Jesus.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 12:20-23

What is significant about the title “Son of Man”?

- Read Daniel 7:13-14. This Messianic figure is given a kingdom and all peoples, nations, and languages will serve him forever. Jesus refers to himself repeatedly in the Gospels as the Son of Man. He wanted those serious about following him to understand that he is the eternal king.

Twice in the Gospel of John Jesus says, “My hour has not yet come (Jn. 2:4; 7:6)”. However, in this verse, Jesus says that his hour has come. What does he mean?

- Jesus never denied being the Messiah, yet he did resist being known publicly as the Messiah for a while because he knew the people had misunderstood the title. They wanted a warrior king to destroy their Roman oppressors. However, Jesus was more concerned about restoring all of humanity to God through his death on the cross. The hour for Jesus to go to the cross was approaching quickly. During this time, the world would see what the role of the Messiah was really about. The fact that the Gentiles were coming to Jesus signifies that Jesus’ mission extends to all humanity, not just to restore Israel, as many had thought.

Read John 12:24-26

Verse 24 is a wisdom saying of the Rabbi's in Jesus' day. It means that through death comes life. It also pointed to this cosmic restoration of creation into harmony with God. How fitting...that Jesus would use this saying to reveal that he is not just the Savior of the Jews, but of the whole world.

What does it mean to hate this life in verse 25?

- The one who reads this literally has misunderstood what Jesus was getting at. What he means is that we should value God and his mission over our being in control of this life. We surrender our lives to him and count him as more important than our goals for this life.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

How does Jesus death on the cross change you?

- It forgives your sin/rebellion.
- It reconciles you to a growing relationship with God.
- It gives you hope for a future because God is in control.
- It gives you a new status: saint, child of God, disciple, ambassador.

Jesus died for the sin of the world, so abandon your life and follow him.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How can you embrace God's mission?

- Share the Gospel
- Love the Poor
- Help those in need
- Commit to the wellbeing of your church by serving.
- Pursue knowledge of God.
- Identify areas where you have kept control of your life and repent.

How can your Small Group embrace God's mission?