
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Start Here: Part 5

Small Group Questions

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Read

John 13-17; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 15:19; and Ecclesiastes 3:11

Reflect

Jesus, knowing that his hour has come, gathers his disciples together for the Passover meal to prepare them for their mission after his death and resurrection. In addition to letting them know they will have trouble in this world, he prays for his disciples...and really for us. How hard is it to avoid thinking of your prayer life with Jesus as a barter relationship?

Pastor Geoff Surratt highlights five things Jesus wants for us:

1. Protection more than safety.
 - a. What is the difference between protection and safety?
 - b. When have you not played it safe with your faith and had it pay off?
2. Unity more than uniformity.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus chose such a diverse range of disciples?
 - i. Why would he choose these specific disciples?
 - b. Would you say the people you hang out with most think a lot like you?
 - i. Do they need to?
 - c. When have you gained perspective by talking with someone who thinks differently than you?
 - d. How hard is it to forego letting issues divide you and instead unite around Jesus?
3. Experience joy more than happiness.
 - a. How could Jesus have joy while knowing his coming circumstances?
 - b. How have you experienced joy in the hardest of times?
4. Set apart more than fitting in.
 - a. How would you define sanctification?
 - b. For what purpose did God create us? Which of the following is the easiest and hardest for you to do? Why?
 - i. To experience him.
 - ii. To serve each other.
 - iii. To tell other people about Jesus.
5. Understand eternity more than today.
 - a. What are you facing that makes no sense? How do you handle these situations? Do they make you feel more or less connected to Jesus? Explain.
 - b. If you believe in eternity with Jesus, how does it affect how you are living your life?
 - c. What do you need to experience most in your life of the five things listed above that Jesus wants for us?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?