

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.

Sermon Study

January 8, 2017

Jesus Knows the Hearts of Men

John 2:23-25

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



*Eastview Christian Church small groups provide the optimal environment for the life change Jesus Christ intends for every person. Our groups typically have 8-14 people who **GATHER** together (Hebrews 10:24-25), **GROW** to be more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16), **GIVE** of themselves in various ways (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16), and **GO** on to impact the world around them (Matthew 28:19).*

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Without naming specific individuals, have you ever entrusted your goods, emotions, or yourself to someone prematurely? What was the outcome?

2. Why can we “entrust” ourselves to Jesus?

Go
(your group on mission)

Be bold to share with others, not just the signs (miracles) that Christ has done in your life, but the power of His name to offer the love and forgiveness that saves us.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture: John 2:24 “But Jesus on His own part, did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all people.”

Key Word Study: The word entrust (episteuen, ἐπίστευε, or variations of) means: to commit, to believe, to trust, have confidence in, to rely on.

Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading prayer.

2. Read aloud John 2:23-25.

3. In the Bible, the phrase “in the name of” is used often as an expression of “the power, the authority, and the purpose of that person” (Example: “I come in the name of the king.”) Think of examples, in scripture, where “the name of” is used in this way and discuss. (Helpful scriptures: Ps. 34:3, Luke 9:48, John 20:31, Acts 4:12, Matthew 10:22.)

4. What “signs” had Jesus already performed, or received, in the preceding chapters of John? (Helpful scriptures: John 1:32-34, John 1:48, John 2:7-10, John 2:15.)

5. What signs did Jesus hint at, but were yet to come to pass in the first chapters of John? (Helpful scriptures: John 1:51, John 2:18-22.)

6. Is belief that is based on “signs” acceptable? (Helpful scriptures: John 10:38, John 12:37, John 14:11, John 20:30-31.)

7. What is incomplete about faith based only on signs (miracles; seeing or getting what we want)?

8. The book of John, according to theologian Rodney A. Whitacre, makes it clear that the more we know Jesus, the more we realize that we have more to learn.

a. Can you share how this is true in your followership of Jesus?

b. What more did these “sign-believers” need to learn about Jesus? (John 1:29, John 2:18-22.)

c. Have you moved past believing in signs to a fuller belief in Christ? How has that happened?

9. In verse 24 + 25, Jesus did not “entrust Himself to man because He knew all people.” Why did He hold back? (Helpful scriptures: Isaiah 53:6, Matthew scriptures John 4:34, Matthew 26:39, Luke 23:46.)

10. How does the fact that Jesus knows our hearts affect how you live?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Take time to pray, thanking God for his undeserved love for us. Pray for each other, that our believing in “His name” will go beyond a faith of “signs” to a fuller, more mature relationship with Christ. It is as we mature in our faith that Jesus may entrust us with His power and gifts to glorify Him and our Father God in all we do.