

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 4, 2008

Passage: Luke 7:17-38

Memory Passage: Mark 9:24

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:18-20.** (note: some of these questions are also found in last week's lesson) How did John end up in prison (Luke 3:19-21)?
- (b) What had Jesus said would be part of his ministry in Luke 4:18? How might this have affected John's faith?
- (c) What had John experienced at the baptism of Jesus? Why do you think he still doubted?
- (d) How do you feel when you hear about God doing something miraculous for someone and the same thing hasn't happened for you? Does that ever cause doubt to arise in you?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:18-20. Is it possible to be a believer and have doubts? Talk about some of the reasons that we have doubts about things spiritually. Why did John doubt? Did Jesus reject him because of his doubts? Pray for someone who is suffering and struggling to trust God in their suffering.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:20-23.** How did Jesus "answer" their question (Luke 7:21-23)? Why did he do this (Isaiah 29:18-19; 35:4-6; 42:1-7)?
- (b) Did any other Old Testament leaders ever have struggles in their faith (Numbers 11:10-15; 1 Kings 19:1; Jeremiah 20:7-9)? Read Hebrews 11: 32. Did any of these struggle in faith? How should this encourage us as believers?
- (c) Did any of the disciples struggle in faith (Matthew 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; John 20:24-25)? Even after the resurrection, we still see some struggling with doubt (Matthew 28:17)? What did Jesus remind them to encourage them (Matthew 28:18-20)?
- (d) Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-9. How does Paul describe his struggles? What was one reason that Paul said God allowed this?
- (e) What are we to do for those who are struggling (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Galatians 6:1)? How did Jesus conclude this section (Luke 7:23)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 7:20-23 and Galatians 6:1? What are some reasons that we have doubts? What is the solution to our doubts? Pray that you might be able to trust God's Word and God's wisdom when things are unsure in your life.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:24-27.** What questions did Jesus ask the crowd about John the Baptist? *Why* did they go out to see him?
- (b) What does Jesus acknowledge that John was (Luke 20:3-6)? In what way was he more than a prophet (Matthew 11:9-10; John 5:33-35; Luke 1:76; Luke 1:17)?
- (c) Read Matthew 14:1-11. What eventually happened to John the Baptist? How did Jesus respond when he heard about the death of John (Matthew 14:12-13)? What does this tell you about how Jesus felt about John and his ministry?
- (d) What did Paul say was the one thing required of a steward (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:24-27 and 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. How did God use the ministry of John the Baptist? Was he perfect in his faith? Was he faithful in his ministry even with his struggles? Pray that you may be faithful even in times of struggle.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:28-30.** What did Jesus say about John's greatness? Why was he greater?
- (b) How are believers greater than John the Baptist? What does this say about even the weakest, most struggling Christian?
- (c) How did the people react to this and why? What does it mean that they "justified God" (Romans 3:4)?
- (d) How did the Pharisees react? What does Luke tell us is the reason they reacted this way (Luke 7:30)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:28-30. Talk about the blessings of being a believer. How is the weakest believer greater than John the Baptist? Spend some time thanking God for the wonderful blessings that we have in Jesus.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 7:31-37.** To what did Jesus compare this generation?
- (b) Why is this generation so hard to reach? How does this show us the futility of trying to please people in order to reach them with the gospel? What should be our approach?
- (c) What is the difference between being childish (Luke 7:31-34) and childlike (Matthew 18:3; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17)?
- (d) Does this rule out making friends as a bridge to sharing the gospel? What do these verses tell us about how Jesus reached out to sinners?
- (e) *Family:* Luke 7:34-35. What is the danger of trying to please people just to get them to hear the gospel? What should our approach be? Pray together for someone who needs to know Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 7:17-38. Have you ever thought about “doubting believers?” Is it possible to be a believer and have doubts at times? What are some of the times that you have doubts? How did Jesus respond to the doubts of John the Baptist? How should we respond to fellow believers who go through times of doubt? Pray that tomorrow’s services might be an encouragement to believers as they hear God’s Word.

DATE: May 4, 2008

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The Disciple’s Doubts

“Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”