

Small Group Discussion Questions



// Week of February 04, 2024

LEADER INFO

- Third Service Launch
 - Sunday, February 25
 - Text "Roll" to 604-670-3040 to commit to "rolling back" to an earlier service for 4 weeks as we launch
 - We need 72 new volunteers for our Home Team to do 3 services well. Text "serve" to 604-670-3040 to sign up
- Baptism
 - NEXT Sunday, February 11
 - To sign up, text "DUNK" to 604-670-3040

GROW This section is based on the sermon from Sunday. You can find it here: <https://www.southsidelife.com/>

ICE BREAKER Do you have any phobias?

Why You Exist

"Where do I come from?" "What am I doing here?" "Do I matter?" "What happens when I die?" There is only one place to go for the answers to these questions.

Read

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

1. Trust in the Lord

- a. “There is no God” and “There is a God”, or “God is good” and “God is not good”
 - i. How is every one of these a statement of faith?

- b. When we put our faith in Jesus, we come to know Him, and because we know Him, we begin to trust Him.
 - i. What’s the difference between faith and trust?
 - ii. Where are you at in your trust in Jesus? In which area of your life are you having a hard time trusting Him?

2. Lean not on your own understanding

- a. As humans, we crave certainty but unfortunately certainty is an illusion in this life.
 - i. Can you remember a time you were certain about something, that ended up letting you down?

- b. Read this quote from Sheldon Vanauken:

“There is a gap between the probable and the proved. How was I to cross it? If I were to stake my whole life on the risen Christ, I wanted proof – I wanted certainty. I wanted to see him eat a bit of fish. I wanted letters of fire across the sky. I got none of these. And I continued to hang about on the edge of the gap ... it was a question of whether I was going to accept him or reject him.

My God, there was a gap behind me as well. Perhaps the leap to acceptance was a horrifying gamble, but what of the leap to rejection! There might be no absolute certainty that Christ was God, but there was no certainty that he was not. This was not to be borne. I could not reject Jesus. There was only one thing to do once I had seen the gap behind me. I turned away from it, and flung myself over the gap towards Jesus.”

- 1. What stands out to you?

3. In all your ways acknowledge Him

- a. What in life are you most afraid of?

- b. Your greatest fear is actually despair: an absolute absence of Hope.
 - i. We all want answers to the biggest questions of life. Despair would be not having answers to questions like the following:
 1. Who am I?
 - a. Answer for yourselves here
 - i. *You're God's masterpiece*
 2. What am I doing here?
 - a. Answer for yourselves here
 - i. *You were placed on this planet to bring light and hope to this world, starting with the people closest to you*
 3. Do I matter?
 - a. Answer for yourselves here
 - i. *You were worth sending God's one and only son to earth to die and rise again for you*
 4. What happens to me when I die?
 - a. Answer for yourselves here
 - i. *You're going to step into eternity with God, and we don't even yet have the capacity to imagine the joy and love that we'll experience there with Him*

4. And He will direct your path

- a. "Oh the places you'll go" - where has God's plan brought you over your lifetime?

- b. Where do you feel like He's leading you next?

- c. Pastor Mike shared about reaching “the end” of himself. When you’re at the end of yourself, “you come to God with empty hands.”
 - i. Have you ever come to the end of yourself? What that was like for you?
 - ii. How do you imagine God would respond if, instead of avoiding or running *from* him, you ran *to* him? What, if anything, is preventing you from doing that?
 1. *What are some Bible verses we can turn to when we are at the end of ourselves?*

PRAY