

JESUS' MINISTRY BEGINS

April 22, 2018

ICEBREAKER - Why would it be important for Jesus to hear his Father's blessing?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17; The Story, p. 322), what did the people see and hear and how did this clarify who Jesus was?
2. After forty days in the wilderness Jesus faced three temptations from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11; The Story, pp. 322-323). What was each temptation and what did Jesus say to fend off each? How does Satan use similar types of temptation in our lives today?
3. How can knowing Scripture help us battle against daily temptations? Tell about a time you used Scripture to stand strong against the enemy.
4. Chapter 4 of The Story told of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:1-30; The Story, pp. 51-52) which was slain and whose blood was placed on the doorpost to protect God's people in Egypt from the angel of death. Now John the Baptist calls Jesus "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29; The Story, p. 323). First-century Jews knew all about the Passover and the sacrificial system. What message would John's words about Jesus have sent them and what message should a send us today?
5. As Jesus called people to follow him, many immediately invited someone else to meet the Savior. Who has God placed in your life that you would like to invite to know Jesus? How can your group members pray for you as you seek to reach our to this person with God's love and grace?
6. In Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21; The Story, pp. 326-327), Jesus talked about the Upper Story while Nicodemus focused on the Lower Story. How do you see these two stories conflicting in their conversation? How did Jesus help Nicodemus think in Upper Story terms? What does Jesus reveal to Nicodemus and to us about the heart of God, heaven, and judgement in this passage?
7. Jesus told the woman at the well that God looks for people who will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth (John 4:21-24; The Story, p. 328). What helps you connect with God's Holy Spirit? What helps you grow more authentic and truthful as you worship?
8. Jesus sought our quiet places where he could meet with the Father face-to-face (Mark 1:35; The Story, p. 330). Why is it important that Christians today make regular time to be quiet before God? How are you doing in this area and how can your group members support you in this discipline of spiritual growth?

READ FOR NEXT SESSION - Take time before your next group meeting to read chapter 24 of The Story.

PRAYER TIME - Take prayer requests