

4Ws

So That You May Know *The Plan*

John 12:20-50

Dgroup's Curriculum: Leader's Copy

WORSHIP

Consider reading **Psalm 61** together, taking turns reading a verse at a time, or reading responsively with the leader reading a verse and the group responding with the next verse. You can discuss the Psalms you read and share what they mean to you.

Consider singing some of the songs on the sheets that were included in your packet if you have someone in the group that plays the guitar or can lead music and/or play the guitar.

WELCOME

Questions.

Have you ever lost something that was very valuable to you? Did you find that thing again? How did you feel when you found it or realized that you would not find it? Tell us the story.

WORD

Discussion Questions.

1. When Philip and Andrew told Jesus that the Greeks wanted to see him, part of Jesus' response was John 12:24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.". What did Jesus mean by this? How can we apply this in our lives?

Answers to explore:

- A. Jesus referred to His glorification - His death on the cross, His resurrection, and His ascension. By His glorification, the gospel would be preached to the gentile world.
- B. Jesus was also saying that the disciples would have to be like that grain of wheat and if they do not die to themselves, they will remain alone, but if they die to themselves, the gospel would be preached to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- C. If a follower of Jesus were to live for himself, he would remain alone, but if he dies to himself, he can bear much fruit.
 - D. We can die to ourselves by putting Jesus first in our lives, by following Him in every situation, by seeking to be like Him. We can die to ourselves by sharing the Gospel in difficult situations, by following God even when it “hurts”, by serving others.
2. We read in John 12:35: “So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.”. In what ways can darkness overtake us, if we do not walk in the light? What steps can we do so that darkness will not overtake us.

Answers to explore:

- A. Just as when physical darkness descends and we do not know where we will go, so when spiritual darkness descends, so also get lost spiritually. Maybe not immediately because we have seen the the path and can remember it. But anyone who stays long in the darkness cannot go far as he will not know the way
 - B. Darkness can overtake both an unbeliever and also a Christian. For the unbeliever - if he repeatedly refuses the invitation of Christ even after hearing him and starting to understand, and for the Christian if he continually chooses to disobey or not believe God at His Word. Darkness can overtake believers who stop reading and listening to His Word, wstop praying, or fellowshiping with fellow believers.
 - C. We can walk in the light by studying & listening to God’s Word, praying, worshipping, fellowshiping with believers, joining DGroup meetings, obeying and walking with God. When we sin, we walk in the light by confessing to God (1John 1:9), and repenting - turning away from that sin.
3. Jesus said in John 12:36-37 “While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light”. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,”. Why did Jesus hide himself? What are the implications for us?

Answers to explore:

- A. God has a timetable. God is gracious and gives people second chances (and third, and fourth...), and yet there is a season and a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven).

- B. If we don't take the opportunities God has given us to know Him, to fellowship with Him, we may find out that we have run out of time! There can be times when the "hour" will come sooner than we expect or imagine. We need to be ready at all times. (Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.)
- C. Psalms 119:105 reads "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.". God doesn't give us a searchlight that let's us see far into the future, but He gives us His Word as a lamp to our feet, a light to each one's individual path. This means we can only see so far ahead. But as we walk forward and follow that path, the light moves with us. We can see further ahead. And so God continues to illumine our path. If we don't move forward with God, we cannot see further than the steps laid down ahead of us. Also, as we obey God, God teaches us more, fellowships with us. If we refuse to obey what God has already revealed to us - then we could get "stuck in that lesson", God ceases to reveal more to us, until we learn those valuable truths and principles and can move forward again. As we are faithful in the small things, then he entrusts us with more - which includes His wisdom and His presence.
4. John 12:44-45 says "And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.". The message is Jesus. No one can say I believe in God and yet deny Jesus. What are some things we can do for people around us who are not yet followers of Jesus, to help them get to know Jesus better?

Answers to explore:

- A. We can pray for them.
- B. We can befriend them, we can get to know them and let them get to know us.
- C. We can be kind to them and help them.
- D. We can let them observe that we walk with Jesus.
- E. We can share the Gospel to them at the right time and place.
- F. We can invite them to CCF worship services, DGroup meetings, GLC or CCF special events like retreats or the Christmas party.

WORK

Jesus has just made it clear that He will lay down His life for us, and that His death will happen on a cross. He has also said that God plans to glorify Himself through Jesus' death and that God wants to glorify Himself in our lives as well. Help the group to understand that Jesus is talking about joy that comes because of pain, of gain that comes because of loss. Jesus is not promising that our lives will be pain-free, or that things will always be easy for us. He is promising that we will experience life the way that He did, life that is full of loss and even pain, but life that means something! There is a price to be paid if we are going to follow Jesus, but as we pay that price we have the privilege of glorifying God just as Jesus did. Encourage the group to learn to live with this reality and encourage them to be willing to take the risk and pay the price of following Jesus. This risk comes most often in the form of reaching into the lives of others with the Good News. If we're not doing that now, this would be a good time to begin.

Those of us who lead should remember that there is no better way to motivate others to share the gospel than to set an example for them. Speak to others about Jesus when you have the opportunity and set an example of lifestyle evangelism for the members of your group. They will be much more likely to follow your example than they will be to simply do what you tell them to do. Ask the group to discuss this and then ask them to think through the list of people you have been praying for each week. Discuss how we can be more aggressively involved in sharing the good news with these folks for whom God has burdened us. We will pray for these people tonight and each night we're together until they come to Life Group, or come to Christ through some other means. Have each couple or individual share the name of one couple/person to pray for and then ask one of the other people in the group to pray for them.

Close your time together in prayer.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Singapore Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Core, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Singapore Facilities

- CCF Singapore Center
- Equipments

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends