

First Things First

Rev. Carl Griffin | John 1:35-42
June 10, 2018 | Spring Cycle: Week 9 of 10

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Is there a story behind how you got your name? What does your name mean?

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Does the closeness in your relationship with Christ encourage or challenge you to share Christ?

What prayers are you aware of that the Lord answered this week? Are you still awaiting God's response on anything? How can your LIFE Group pray for you?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Last week we discussed that regardless of our socio-economic standing, every Christian is responsible to seek the Lord's will and calling on their life. God is the Creator of all that we own and use. Whether much or little, we must acknowledge God's provision in our lives. We are stewards of his creation. As we seek his kingdom and righteousness, we guard against the potential negative effects of wealth on our spiritual lives. Pray that God would show you what levels of acquiring, saving, spending and giving he desires of you. Then pray that you will faithfully obey.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

Words of faith may come easily, but a deep appreciation for Christ comes through living by faith.

Read John 1:35-42

Q1. Why do you think Jesus was given so many different names throughout his life? What do the names imply about his nature? *Note: Here are a few — Son of God; Teacher; King of Israel; Rabbi; Son of Man; Lamb of God; Messiah.*

Q2. What made John the Baptist an effective and God-filled leader? See verses 35-37.

Q3. In verse 38, Jesus questions the disciples about what they want. Why was it important for him to ask them to consider their motive at that point in time of becoming a disciple? What implications does this have for us?

Q4. Jesus tells the disciples to "come and see," in verse 39, in response to their question. Why didn't Jesus just tell the disciples where he was staying? Why was it important for the disciples to remain with him for the day?

Q5. If you have ever had a moment when the Lord's involvement in your life so moved you that you couldn't stop professing your faith, please share with the group.

Q6. What areas in your life are particularly difficult for you to surrender in order to truly follow Christ?

Q7. Why do you think Jesus gave Simon a new name in verse 42 (*Cephas - Peter*)?

Impact Questions

Q1. Christ changes you on the inside when you choose to follow him. What changes did you notice in your life when you became a believer? Changes now? Did you give up anything to follow him?

Q2. Share about a time in your life when the Lord really showed up and surpassed all your expectations on a given matter or concern. How can sharing that experience strengthen your faith and encourage non-believers to realize that the Lord is loving and merciful?

Q3. Like Jesus' first disciples, our expectations surrounding who we want him to be and how we want him to interact in our lives can affect our ability to follow him. What are your expectations of Jesus Christ and are they impacting your walk with him?

What now? (15 minutes)

God doesn't always interact in our lives as we would desire, but he is ALWAYS there with us, and many times surpasses all of our expectations! Please pray that the Lord would give you wisdom to understand his timing in circumstances that weigh you down. We may not understand his timing, but he desires to draw us closer to him in everything. Pray for trust to follow him, even when there are more questions in your heart than there is faith; Jesus is with you and knows your concerns. He is with you!

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray for the voiced and unvoiced prayer requests of your LIFE Group members. Please lift up VBS and the Park Ministry at Northwest in prayer; these two outreach ministries have the potential of making a major impact in our surrounding community. Please pray for the Youth in our church and that the Lord would continue to develop their spiritual gifts and talents, and be molded more into Christlikeness. Please pray that the Reading for Success ministry would encourage some of the Emerson families to return and worship with us. Pray how we as a church can be Christ-centered examples for the youth to look up to. Please prayerfully consider how we are using the wealth and provisions the Lord has entrusted to us. Please pray for families and marriages.

Sermon Notes: