

Group Discussion Questions

BECAUSE OF CHRIST | Week 1 "I Am Free!"

Almost everyone knows the story of the rich young ruler. It appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke.) It's obvious that there is something very important that God does not want us to miss. Let's see what we can learn from this encounter between Jesus and the rich young ruler.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What do you lose the most often? Where is the strangest place you found it?
2. What is your most prized possession?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Colossians 2:9-10. How does this verse help you to understand that Jesus is 100% God and 100% man? Why is it important that he is?
2. Read Mark 10:18. Then read Exodus 20:1-17. Which commandments did Jesus not mention? What do they have in common? Why is this significant?
3. Read Luke 18:22. This man is the only person that Jesus ever told to sell all that he had. Why do you think this was? Besides wealth, what other kinds of things might keep people from surrendering to God?
4. Read Mark 10:26. The disciples like the rich young ruler, are having a difficult time grasping how people can be saved and inherit the kingdom of heaven. How would you answer this question?
5. Read Matthew 19:23-30. What wrong thinking did Jesus expose in his conversation with the disciples? What does it mean that, "many who are first will be last, and the last will be first?"

PRAYER TIME

Close your group in prayer. Thank God that he has made a way for us to enter the kingdom of heaven. Ask him to remove the barriers that prevent us from fully giving Jesus first place in our lives and to set us free from our false gods.

TAKING IT HOME AND PUTTING IT INTO ACTION

- Read Mark 10:27. Write this verse out on a few 3 X 5 cards or something that you can tape up on your bathroom mirror, place in your car, and carry in your purse or pocket. Read it out loud each time you pray for your something and your someone during this fast. Use it to strengthen your faith and your resolve to continue to pray.
- Take some time this week to examine what thing or things in your life you have a death grip on (or have a death grip on you) that has become a god in your life and prevents you from fully surrendering to God. Pray and ask God to change your heart.

