

GENESIS STUDY QUESTIONS

September 6, 2009

“The Light of the World” Matthew 5:14-16

LEADER PREPARATION

Question to be pondered: If life is not about me, what is my purpose as a Christ follower?

The Big Idea: We exist, as individuals and as a church, to proclaim the glory of God with our daily lives.

Leaders: How are you living a life that proclaims the glory of God to the world? How is your group doing the same? The goal of this study is to help the group understand that our purpose is to reflect the glory of God with our daily lives.

Getting Started

What would your closest friends say that you live for? (Do you live for food?...TV?...Surfing?...Shopping?)

What would you say that you live for? Does this reflect a greater concern for yourself or others?

Digging Deeper

One of the most difficult aspects of a faith in God is understanding that life is not about us. In Isaiah 43, God helps Israel re-adjust their perspective: life is about God and *His* glory.

Read Isaiah 43:1-7. What hope does the Lord give to Israel?

Redeem them, be with them, protect them (v.2), give men in exchange for Israel/your life (v.4), gather Israel together again (v.5).

According to verses 1 & 7, who created us, and what is our purpose?

We were created, formed, and made by God. We were created for His glory.

Read Isaiah 43:8-13. What was Israel's purpose as a nation?

Think about how you live your life and where you place your priorities. What is your life about? If you feel comfortable, share with the group.

God had to remind Israel that their purpose is based in who God is and what He had done for them. They were created so that God would be glorified.

Application

Read Matthew 5:14-16. What do you think it means to make your light shine before men?

Encourage your group to explore what it means to be a shining light. So that when the world sees our good deeds, they will glorify God in heaven.

Why do we strive to be a light to the world? What is the point?

We reflect Christ so that others may come to know Him and experience His grace! Leaders: It might help to discuss with the group whether or not this is even a concern. Are we truly burdened by this?

As a Christ follower, do my actions/habits point others toward God?

What habits of mine need to change so that I can be a light to the world?

As a leader, it would be a good idea to write these down together to record how you are challenging one another towards change. Let the group know that you will review the list next week as a group.