

Dig Deeper @Home – “When Doubting Knocks”

Complement to lesson on 03/20/22 – “Doubting God’s Goodness”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is your favorite food to eat? What about this food makes it taste so “good” to you?
2. Think of someone in your life who you consider to be a “good” friend. What about their character and actions, in your mind, makes them a “good” friend?

MEMORIZE – Psalm 73:16-17

“But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

READ – Matthew 11:1-19

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
 - a. What general observations can you make about the Christian life? Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
2. As background to this part of the story of John the Baptist, read John 1:19-34.
 - a. What is John’s purpose in life. (vv.22-23, 26-27; also Isaiah 40:3-5)
 - b. How does John finally answer their question about his baptism (vv. 30-31)?
 - c. What does he mean by calling Jesus the “Lamb of God” (v. 29; Exodus 12:1-13; Isaiah 53:7)?
 - d. John says, “I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God. (v. 34) (cf. Psalm 2:7)
What observations would you make comparing this part of John’s story with what is taking place in Matthew 11? What might be causing John to doubt?
3. In spite of the situations in life that can cause us to doubt God’s goodness, the Bible repeatedly presents “goodness” as a core quality of God. Read the following verses and allow God’s word to remind you of His goodness and His generous ways toward you as His much loved child. (Exodus 33:19; 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 27:13-14; Psalm 31:19-20; Jeremiah 31:13-14; Matthew 7:11; Titus 3:4-7.)

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Taste God’s Goodness

In Psalm 34:8, David was facing a terrifying situation when he was taken before King Achish, (1 Samuel 21:10-15). In the midst of this test of faith and trust in God, and as he is brought through the trial, he writes, these words, *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.”*

Take some time to sit and with a cup of tea or coffee and a sweet snack and simply “taste” the goodness of God as you write down a list of all the “good” you have experienced of God in the past and now. Write down the ways you have experienced the “goodness” of God in spite of difficult circumstances.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

The Goodness of Jesus - https://youtu.be/Ncn_1hSmXps

King of My Heart – <https://youtu.be/-jkMnq2Hfzo>

Psalm 23 – Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy - https://youtu.be/Mo3HgtT_OiE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Mennonite Hymnal - #310

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer:

Go this week believing in Jesus and thus being a child of God sent to do His will. As you have received God’s goodness and grace in abundance so offer his goodness in abundance. As you have received the truth so freely share the truth, freely and full of grace and doing good among all you will meet where you live, work and play.