

Small Group Discussion Guide — October 4, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
 - Sermon: You Are Immensely Valuable
 - Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-5; Philippians 3:4-9; Matthew 13:44-45 (NLT)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

How might you reach out to people around you who you know are victims of the loneliness pandemic? If you have some of the symptoms, what might YOU do to make a connection with someone else?

CONNECT:

1. What one thing stood out for you from this weekend's services?
2. What is the most valuable item you've ever seen or held in your hands? (Ground rule: Your answer cannot be any other human.)

ENGAGE:

1. Read Ephesians 2: 4-5.
 - What do you think it means that God chose to be "rich in mercy" to us?
 - How are we, in Paul's words, "dead because of our sins"?
2. Read Philippians 3:4-9.
 - Why do you think Paul is almost boastful about his religious credentials here?
 - He seems to think less of these qualifications in verses 7 and 8. How does he now refer to them, and why?
 - What does Paul say is the path to righteousness?
3. Read Matthew 13: 44-45.
 - Does it seem strange to you that the pearl (the greatest, most life-changing news ever) is hidden and requires so much searching? Why or why not?

APPLY:

1. Growing up, we were told things like, "There's no free lunch," and the idea that you must EARN everything you get in life was drummed into many of us. How does it feel to hear that there's nothing you can do to make God love you more, and that it's flat-out impossible to earn his love? How does your approach to life line up with this idea? Why do you think the idea of grace is so offensive to our human sensibilities?
2. What kinds of things do you do to try to make yourself more valuable to God? How does this discussion challenge your thinking in this area, and how will you respond?
3. When we understand our immense value to God and the price he was willing to pay, how can it change the way we love ourselves, what captures our heart, and how we see and love the people that surround our lives?

PRAY:

Father in heaven, it is so liberating to know that your love for us isn't based on hoops that we must jump through, sacrifices we must make, or standards of behavior we must measure up to. You love us because we're your children, who you had in mind before we were even born. Teach us to live in gratitude for that. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

1. We determine the cost of something based on its value to us. God showed us how much He loves and values us by sending us His Son. Jesus's death on the cross paid for our sins and gave each of us the opportunity to accept or reject Him. Discuss this idea. What value do you give the Gospel? What cost are you willing to pay for it?
2. What kinds of things keep you from valuing others? How can your embrace of the gospel message change your perspective and your heart towards others, no matter how much you disagree or clash with them?

QUOTES

"He is a billionaire in the currency of mercy, and the withdrawals we make as we sin our way through life cause his fortune to grow greater, not less."

Dane Ortlund, [Gentle and Lowly](#)

"That God is rich in mercy means that your regions of deepest shame and regret are not hotels through which divine mercy passes, but homes in which divine mercy abides. It means the things about you that make you cringe most, make him hug hardest. It means his mercy is not calculating and cautious, like ours. It is unrestrained, flood-like, sweeping, magnanimous. It means our haunting shame is not a problem for him, but the very thing he loves most to work with. It means our sins do not cause his love to take a hit. Our sins cause his love to surge forward all the more. It means on that day when we stand before him, quietly, unhurriedly, we will weep with relief, shocked at how impoverished a view of his mercy-rich heart we had."

Dane Ortlund, [Gentle and Lowly](#)