

Small Group Discussion Guide — May 16, 2021

- Series: if/then
 - Sermon: Clarify Residence
 - Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4: 14-18, Hebrews 13: 14, Matthew 13: 44
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Did you have an opportunity to show love to a neighbor this week, or deepen a relationship with someone you don't always agree with? What did prioritizing relationships look like for you this week?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. When you travel, do you enjoy the journey, or are you focused on the destination? Have you ever taken a trip that ended up changing your perspective on your day-to-day life?

ENGAGE

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4: 14-18.
 - In verse 14, what gives us confidence that we have life beyond what we experience right now?
 - What do you think Paul means that our troubles are "light and momentary"? How do you interpret this for times when our troubles are actually severe (illness, tragedy, etc.)?
 - What does Paul recommend we do, as believers in Christ, as we journey through this life, with all its wonderful moments and its heartbreaking times as well? (v. 18)
2. Read Hebrews 13: 14. What is "the city that is to come" in this verse?
3. Read Matthew 13: 44.
 - How would you translate "kingdom of heaven" in this verse?
 - Is this parable, in your opinion, a call for us to sell everything we have in order to obtain eternal life? If not, what do you think Jesus means?

APPLY

1. Kyle described a cycle that we often experience as humans, where we compare what we have to what others have, experience dissatisfaction, strive to attain more, achieve something new, then compare again, experience more dissatisfaction, strive again, etc. The cycle goes on and on. What are some examples of how you've experienced this in your life? How does inviting Jesus as Lord of your life interrupt this cycle and change your focus and perspective?
2. How valuable would a treasure have to be before you would sell everything you have to acquire it? How does this idea help you understand how valuable the treasure was to the man who found it in the parable?
3. The parable in Matthew says of the man, "*In his joy*, (he) went and sold all he had and bought that field." Read Philippians 3:7-8. How does Paul's statement compare with Jesus's description of the man who discovered the treasure?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we hear in your words a description of your kingdom, and your intention for us to live in it. Please be with us this week and guide us to see our world through your eyes. Show us where our treasure is, and remind us, Lord, where it should be. In your name we pray, Amen.

GOING DEEPER

1. If someone asked you your top five priorities in life, what would you say? If that person looked at your calendar, your bank account, and your screen time, what would they say your priorities are? Would there be a difference between the lists? Why?
2. Kyle referenced [this clip by Lou Giglio](#) on the infinite power of God. When you consider the vastness of the universe, what are your thoughts about how God regards you? Does this make it easier or harder to you to believe in God and the gospel? What would it take for you to accept that a God this big and powerful made you and constantly pursues you, just because He loves you?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 41: 12