

## Small Group Discussion Guide — August 29, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
  - Sermon: Jesus the Source of Life
  - Scripture: John 1: 1-4, John 5: 26, John 6: 53-54
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### FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

How and when did the tension between your earthly citizenship and your citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven manifest itself this week? How were you able to resolve the conflicting loyalties of *dual citizenship*?

### CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Do you know the origin of your family name? How long have you been able to trace it back in time? What's the original meaning of your family name?

### ENGAGE

1. **Read John 1: 1-4.** In this passage Jesus is said not only to have life *in Him*, but also that His life is *the light of all mankind*. Consider how *life* and *light* relate to one another. How does thinking of Jesus's life as *the source of light* change or challenge your impressions of Him?
2. **Read John 5: 26.** What do you think it means that God *granted* the Son to have life *in himself*? How does it compare to the life we receive *through* Christ?
3. **John 6: 53-54.** How do you think the disciples understood these words of Jesus? How about the others who were present when Jesus said this? What do these verses suggest about the crucifixion, and what it means for you to partake in communion?

### APPLY

1. One of David's themes in this message was that surrendering your life to Jesus Christ involves a certain level of risk. Discuss this idea. What might be some risks you choose to take in order to fully follow Christ? How much do you consider these risks, as you choose daily to follow Him? How does acknowledging these risks impact your relationship with Jesus?
2. David mentioned the inadequacy of being only half committed to something, like a business venture or a marriage vow. What would it look like to be half-committed to Jesus? Where are areas of your own life that you detect this approach, and what is the effect on your life? What are some practical steps you can take to fully commit to Him?

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to trust you more. Give us the power through the Holy Spirit to be willing to take great risks in order to be obedient to your Word. Deliver us from our timid desire for comfort and safety as an end in itself, knowing that had it not been for the courage and bravery of prior generations of believers, we may never have heard about your love for us. Amen

## **GOING DEEPER**

David said that a reasonable thing, like taking care in a pandemic, or wanting to be sure your kids are safe, taken too far bends back into a fearful life. In what ways have you seen this happen in your own experience? As a believer, how can your faith in Jesus direct your approach to practical living in a courageous way?

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Acts 17:28

John 20:30-31

Matthew 16: 25

## **QUOTATIONS**

“You very rarely read an obituary describing someone as having a full head of hair and white teeth and a nice car.”

*Dallas Willard*

“... you cannot look to the world itself as the source of that life. The world and its strategies may help you to survive for a long time, but they cannot help you live because the world is not the source even of its own life, let alone yours.”

*Henri Nouwen*