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Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of January 21, 2018

Speaker: Pastor Linn Winters

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather get one free round-trip international plane ticket every year or be able to fly domestic anytime for free?
2. In 30 seconds or less, write down five words you would use to describe God?

If you were asked this same question five years ago do you think your answer would have been any different?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Religion says, "Change, and you can join us." Jesus says, "Join us and you will change." There's a huge difference. Jesus doesn't expect you to be perfect. He just wants you to follow him. Being a sinner doesn't disqualify you from following Him. Being an unbeliever doesn't disqualify you from following Him. In fact, following almost always begins with a sinner and unbeliever taking one small step.

1. Pastor Linn stated that many Christians started following Jesus in a way that was like playing a cosmic game of "Simon Says," and that many continue to do so. However, following Jesus is about "thrilling" the heart of Jesus. In three sentences, describe the difference.

How is a marriage similar to this same kind of thinking?

2. Read Matthew 9:9-13. If Jesus would have been playing "Simon Says" with people, what would His response to Matthew resemble?

What does this reveal about the heart of God?

Read vs 13 again. What is the difference between "mercy and "sacrifice." Why do you think Jesus is pointing it out so dramatically?

3. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to young Timothy, is trying to communicate the same thought. Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16. How are the verses in Matthew and Timothy similar?

Read John 3:17-18. Between the verses in Matthew, 1 Timothy and John, what is the essence of what Jesus is communicating to us today through these verses?

4. If Jesus is truly calling sinners, and not people who have it all together, what are the implications for you concerning:
Myself? My Family?
My Church? My Community?
5. Read Matthew 22:35-40. Of all the commands Jesus could have given, he gives this one. How does knowing this change how we follow and serve Him?

TAKING IT HOME

Based on where you are right now, what is your next step in following Jesus? What can this group do to support you?

Prayer Requests:

