

Connecting Group Study Guide

Knowing, Growing, Going

Week of August 14 - 20, 2016

Follow-up

1. Start by checking in with each other about your previous week.

This week we continued to look at the five different contexts in which discipleship takes place. We focused on the final two—the transparent and the social and the divine. Once again we saw how Jesus engaged these discipleship contexts within his own earthly ministry to grow ordinary people into catalysts for his kingdom. In the message Pastor Chris mentioned that these two contexts are perhaps the most important contexts for discipleship. He shared that three things happen at this level: (1) God forms our identity in Christ, (2) God points us toward our calling/destiny in Christ and (3) God fills us with the truth in Christ.

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

Knowing

According to Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus begins his earthly ministry by heading into the wilderness for 40 days.

1. According to verse 1, who led Jesus into the wilderness and what was the purpose behind it?
2. Have you ever faced an experience in which God led you into something difficult? How did you handle that situation?

Growing

In last Sunday's message we were reminded that Jesus engaged in spiritual disciplines while he physically walked the earth.

1. What spiritual disciplines does Jesus utilize during his time in the wilderness and Satan's temptations?
2. How do you see these disciplines applying to Jesus and his specific situation? What is significant about how Jesus responds to each temptation?
3. Read verses 5-6 again. Can we learn anything about Satan's approach from these verses?

Going

1. How do the three formative works of God (mentioned above) play out for Jesus in this passage?
2. If you had to pick one—identity in Christ, calling in Christ, truth in Christ—which area would you say you requires more formation for you personally?
3. What steps can you take to focus more on developing in Christ in this particular area? How can your connecting group encourage you in this area?

Break up into groups of two and pray specifically for one another—that each would seek and grow in Christ regarding the needed area of spiritual formation.