

Small Group Discussion Guide

GOD ON DISPLAY // Part 2: His Mercy

Introduction

Share one New Year's resolution you made this year or in the past years.

God's Word

Read Luke 3:1-22.

1. What do you think about John's words to the people in verses 7-9? Can you think of anyone to whom you would love to say those words?
2. What would it be like if John was saying those words to you?
3. What do you think our current culture would think about John's words?
4. Describe what it's like to "wait expectantly" for something (v. 15).
5. From what you know of Jewish history at this time, why might the Jews be waiting expectantly? (see also Luke 1:53-55, 68-75)
6. In today's world, what do we wait expectantly for?
7. Explain the farming analogy in verse 17. Who is the chaff and who is the wheat?
8. How many times is the possessive pronoun "his" used in verse 17?
9. What importance does this bring out in the text?

Discussion

10. "Exhorted" is a word that means to come alongside and strongly, lovingly encourage someone in the right direction. Share a situation where it's important to exhort someone.
11. What thoughts or questions come to mind when you hear that Jesus was also baptized?
12. Verse 21 points to two other things that happened during Jesus' baptism. Name them and discuss why the writer Luke may have included these facts.
13. Look at what the voice from heaven said to Jesus. Of those three things, which would be the greatest encouragement to you and why?
14. As a believer, you are "in Christ Jesus," which means that what God the Father said to Jesus he also now says to you. Why is this significant, and how can we leverage these statements to create more peace and contentment in our life?
15. If we lived more fully in the truth of the Father's words about Jesus and about us, what one or two areas of our life would be improved?
16. What point(s) from tonight's study is your biggest takeaway? Why?

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for inspiring the writer, Luke, to put down these exact words for our insight, our encouragement, and our transformation. Thank you for this time of looking deeper into the meaning and application of this text. As we grow in knowing the person of Jesus as the exact representation of God, equip our hearts and our minds and our wills so that we can give you glory in all we say and do. In Jesus' name, amen.