

Life group questions for Explore God: Intro Week

- 1) What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

- 2) Have you seen Michelangelo's "The Creation of Adam" on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel? If so, what do you think people find so compelling about it?

We are about to start an "Explore God" Series along with over 200 churches and other groups around Bay Area based on the following 7 questions:

Week 1: Does Life Have a Purpose?

Week 2: Is there a God?

Week 3: Why does God allow Pain and Suffering?

Week 4: Is Christianity Too narrow

Week 5: is Jesus really God?

Week 6: Is the Bible reliable?

Week 7: Can I know God personally?

- 3) Which of these questions do you think is the most asked question by people you know?

- 4) Which of these questions have you wrestled with most over the course of your life? What about right now?

Read Psalm 13

- 1 How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look on me and answer, LORD my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

Read Psalm 63:1

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

- 5) Has there been a time in your life when you felt like the Psalmist?

Read Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Read Jeremiah 29:11-14

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray

to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD...

- 6) What does it mean to seek God with all your heart and soul?
- 7) How might it contrast with a half-hearted search?

Read Matthew 7:7-8

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

- 8) In all three of the preceding passages, there is a promise that the seeker will find God. What does it mean to "find God?"
- 9) Why does God need to reveal himself for Him to be found?

The other half of the painting, the most important half, is God reaching toward Adam. The Bible reveals that God is seeking people.

Read Psalm 14:2;

2 The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

Matthew 18

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

- 10) What do we learn about God from these passages?

Read Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

11) What can we learn from this passage about what it means to "Find God" or "Be Found by God?"

12) What changes in Zacchaeus?

13) If you have "found God", what has changed in you?

Prayer Exercise

14) Who are some people you would love to find God? (Go around group and have each person share a couple names).

Take some time to pray for them by name.

Courage Challenge

15) What are some ways you might invite people to check out the Explore God series at church?

Close in Prayer