

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Communion: Luke 1:77-78a

Pastor John Mahaffey

Sunday, December 4, 2016

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. As you listened to the children sing this morning, did you have any flash-backs to when you participated in Christmas programs as a child?

2. We observed the lighting of the PEACE candle on Sunday. There are many ideas about what peace means in our world. What does it mean to you?

3. Lue Mahaffey shared some of her experiences at Thessalon:
 - a. Discuss why having a meal together can help non-believing friends to open up? (Consider Luke 19: 1 – 10 and Rev.3:20-21)
 - b. Have you had such experiences from inviting people over for a meal?

4. Lue said it was OK to be “weird”, i.e. to stand out and to be separate from what is seen as normal behaviour for young single people.
 - a. What are some of these pressures afflicting our young people today?
 - b. How can we go about encouraging young and older people alike to remain faithful to Christ? (References – Romans 12:2, John 15:19, I John 2: 15-17)

5. In terms of meeting people who are hostile to the Gospel, Lue said she needs wisdom to know how to respond to this hostility. What lessons might you have learned when dealing with this type of situation? (Reference – I Peter 3:15)

6. Lue asked for prayer for sustainability as it is difficult for a single person to engage in ministry and spiritual battle. God has provided a Christian female roommate for Lue, but how can we continue to encourage her? (References I Timothy 1:18, Ephesians 1:3)

7. Re-read the Advent reading: Revelations 7: 9 – 17. Take a moment to reflect on the salvation message of this passage, and picture in your mind the scene before the Throne of the Lamb – who are these people and what is happening?

8. Read Jeremiah 29:11 and then Luke 1:76-77 and discuss the following:
 - a. Often times, people struggle to know what God's will is for their life and yet John was told exactly what his purpose in life was. How would you feel as John, being told by your father that your job was to prepare the way for the messiah?
 - b. Do you believe it would make his life easier or harder knowing this from a young age? Explain your thinking.

9. Considering Luke 1:76-78:
 - a. Why does God grant this wonderful gift of salvation to us?
 - b. If we link our fate to God's justice, what will happen?
 - c. What do you see as our responsibilities in response to the salvation granted to us?

10. Take some as a group to journey through the Gospel of Luke to see the instances when Jesus exhibited the "tender mercy of God" (verse 78). Then talk about the times that Jesus has shown his tender mercy to you.

11. How can we participate in the six missionary opportunities outlined by Pastor Chris? Pray for these and the various requests of Mary-Lue.