

Small Group/Sermon Notes for Vision: Resurrection Sunday 2017

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
 - Sermon Title: **Being a Friend of God**
 - Discuss the many facets to people's possible relationships with God.
 - Believer, worshiper, disciple, servant, child, co-heir, etc. But friend?
 - Last Super: **John 15:12-15**.
 - They have progressed from servants to friends. What do you think that means?
 - Problem: Too many believers have a relationship with God like a 2nd grader has with the Principal.
 - Just trying to live their life without getting in too much trouble.
 - Certainly not a friend of the Principal. Have you been there?
 - Two conditions for being a friend of Jesus from John 15.
 - Now, I'm not saying there are conditions on Jesus being your friend.
 - Jesus is a friend of sinners. **Romans 5:8-10**.
 - But the sinner is not a friend of God. Rather, the sinner is described as an enemy of God (v10). Not good.
 - Ever been a friend to someone but it turned out they weren't a friend to you? Too many people treat Jesus like that. How can we avoid being one of those people?
 - Condition #1: Obey the commands. **John 15:14**
 - This is necessary but not sufficient. (Not obeying the commands wrecks the friendship.)
 - Why do you think that is?
 - Have you ever had someone's behavior made you have to stop being their friend?
 - Condition #2: Knows his masters business. **John 15:15**
 - Not just follows the rules, but understands why they are important and cares about the things the rules are trying to accomplish.
 - So, the 2nd grader doesn't just grudgingly stop shooting spitballs, but understands the vision of education and gets on board. Discuss this for a while.
 - The friend of Jesus doesn't just grudgingly follow the commands, but understands the vision behind them and gets on board.
 - Context: **John 15: 5-8**. Vine and branches. **John 15:8 vs Romans 3:23**.
 - When we bear fruit God's plan comes forth and God is glorified.
 - When we sin God's plan is subverted and His Glory is suppressed.
 - So why obey and abide? Because God has good plans and wrecking God's plans hurts lots of people!!
 - **John 15:9-17**. Love Each Other.
 - Why? We need each other! **John 15:18-20**.
 - Is there opposition to faith in Christ?
 - Is there opposition to Christian morality in today's world?
 - Is it hard to fight this battle alone?
 - Do you want to reject, grudgingly obey, or get on board with the vision of a brotherhood that stands together and loves one another?
- Jesus is a friend to you. Do you want to be a friend to Jesus?
 - Then look at the commands of God and find the vision behind them and fight for the causes Jesus cares about! Look at some commands and try to find the vision behind them.
 - Oh the things God wants to rescue people from!! Don't let a 2nd grader/Principal mentality thwart God's great plans!!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!