

Small Group Questions

Positioned for a Purpose – Week 7

Where has God Positioned Me? (Part 2)

This is the final week of the “Positioned for a Purpose” series. Share one personal take away from the series with your small group. Why was that particular teaching meaningful to you?

This week we heard about the Web of Influence Principle. The gospel spreads most effectively through already existing relationships, or “webs of influence”. Each of us has a network or web of relationships – family, friends and neighbors, classmates, people in the community, etc. Have you considered that God may have placed these people in your life so that you might be an influence on them for Christ?

Pause for a moment. Bring to your mind two or three people in your web of influence who as far as you know, have not yet placed their faith in Christ.

The web of influence principle is not new. It’s as old as Christianity. The first followers of Jesus came to him through their webs of influence.

Read John 1:29-34

The Lamb of God

The earlier part of this chapter sets the stage for this story that takes place at the Jordan River. Earlier we read that the Word became flesh to live among us.

1. Who are the two most important people in this story? In what way have they known one another up to this point?
2. John calls Jesus, the “Lamb of God.” What would that title suggest to the Jewish people who heard it?
3. In verses 29 and 33 John specifically mentions two things that the Lamb of God does. What are they?

4. In the Old Testament the sacrifice of a lamb was necessary each time a person sinned – in order to “cover” the sin. What would it mean to John the Baptist’s disciples to hear that this Lamb of God could “take away” sin? What does it mean to you?
5. Guilt is troublesome for many people. How is it “good news” for you to know that Christ takes away sin? What person in your web of influence would benefit from this “good news”?
6. In the Old Testament the lamb had to die in order to “cover” sins. How would Jesus take away the sin of the world?
7. John also said that the Lamb will baptize with the Holy Spirit – that is, the Holy Spirit will free us from sin’s domination and give us power to live the new life of a believer. Why is this important for us to understand? How do you experience the Holy Spirit at work in your life? Which person in your web of influence do you long to see freed from sin’s power? What might you do to help this person take a step closer to Christ?

Read John 1:35-51

Come and See

1. In this passage we meet two of John the Baptist’s disciples. What kind of people would be followers of John?
2. John announces that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Why is it crucial for John to give this testimony about Jesus?
3. What is the initial response of these two disciples? Why is such a response important? Who in your web of influence seems interested in investigating the claims of Christ? What might be your part in encouraging that investigation?

4. What did Jesus do when He sensed them following Him? How did Jesus reply to their question? What does His reply tell us about Him?

5. After Andrew and John spent the day with Jesus they drew the conclusion that Jesus is the Messiah. What is Andrew's reaction to this discovery? To whom have you mentioned the name of Jesus to recently? What was their reaction?

6. The next day Jesus continues making disciples by calling Philip and Nathanael. What was Philip's reaction to meeting the Messiah?

7. How was Nathanael's response different from Philip's response? How would that kind of response make you feel? How did Philip react to Nathanael's skepticism? Are there any skeptics in your web of influence? If so, how do you respond to them and treat them?

Jesus used his natural web of influence to reach the world with the Good News. Eleven of Jesus' 12 disciples were from Galilee. Among those disciples were three sets of brothers and some of them may have been Jesus' own cousins. Jesus used the Web of Influence Principle to launch his outreach to the world.

You and I will meet all kinds of people. People like John and Andrew who want to investigate the claims of Jesus. People like Philip, ready and eager to receive Christ. And others who are skeptical like Nathanael.

Continue to pray for your web of influence. Ask God for boldness, wisdom and a genuine heart to see people come to faith in Jesus.