



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: Ignorance Is Bliss May 21, 2017

Opening Questions:

- In what area in your life do you adhere to the concept that ignorance is bliss? What do you pretend isn't there? What do you sweep under the rug? Why do you suppose we do that sort of thing anyway?
- Are we so desperate to be happy that we settle for less? Less living? Less experience? Less good? Why do you think we so quickly equate the unknown with something that will detract from whatever level of happy we currently have?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Acts 17:16-28...** With the philosophy of the day centering on the self apart from a distant god, what do you suppose the highest values were? This explains why Paul maybe sounded like a babbler to his listeners...what parts of God seem like babbling to you?
- What causes you more fear and stress...the known? Or the unknown? If it's the unknown, why do we continue to believe ignorance is bliss?
- Read **Luke 7:18-24a...** How could John the Baptist, of all people, question who Jesus was? This is the same guy who baptized Jesus and declared him to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Why didn't John just settle for the bliss of not knowing any better?
- Do you ever miss the blissful ignorance of childhood? Why or why not? Why is it so important for us to move past that way of thinking and navigating life?

Application Questions:

- This week's bottom line was **IGNORANCE IS ONLY BLISS IF WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ISN'T**. What parts of what you don't know are you most afraid to wrestle with?
- Which altar do you have most prominently in your own heart? Is it... "The Unknown God?" "The Untouchable God?" or "The Unrealistic God?" How do you think you should go about changing the inscription on each of those? What practices do you plan on instilling into your daily life?
- Josh said we mistake elevation for isolation, complexity for fragility, and magnificence for ignorance... which mistake do you make most with God? Read **Psalm 16:11** to close your discussion.

End your time together praying for one another, asking God to make himself all the more knowable to you. Ask him to give each group member the courage and space to wrestle with him in order to know him more deeply.