

Leader's Guide

JESUS TEACHES Us... ABOUT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

October 15, 2006
John 13:31-35

LEADER'S GUIDE
for small group
discussion prepared
to aid you in digging
deeper and taking to
heart what we are
exploring on
Sunday mornings.



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Overview

One of the most well-known teachings of Jesus is His call for His friends and followers to “love one another as I have loved you.” But that call isn’t an arbitrary “defining characteristic.” Jesus calls His followers to live like this because of what it “displays.”

Walk it through

The concept of “glory” may be a challenge to get your arms around. How can we define it? “Glory” is the manifest display of the defining characteristics of what makes someone or something great. When God “reveals His glory,” He is putting on display what makes Him great.

Most people are impressed with Jesus. (And rightly so!) And Jesus tells us that what is being put “on display” in and through His life is the character and person of God. Jesus is God speaking in human skin telling us about Himself in human words so we can “get it.”

In John 1:9-18, John tells us that no one has really seen God (i.e., to conceptually grasp Him fully!) but that Jesus “fully explains” (1:18). Jesus displays God . . . fully.

What does Jesus want His followers to know? That in Him, God is made manifest. We can “see God” in Jesus. And, that then spills over into our lives in a profound way.

As followers of Jesus, His life should so influence ours that what makes Jesus so great begins to be put “on display” in us. Jesus is seen to be “connected” to the Father because of the display of the Father seen in and through Him. And Jesus tells us that the same idea is at work in the lives of His followers. We are seen to be “connected” to Him because of the display of His character (love) seen in us.

Discussion Guide

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Thinking it through . . .

When you reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus—when your heart and mind turn to Him—what do you think about Him? As you have come to know Him, what is He like?

As He spoke with His friends in the Upper Room, Jesus explained what was going on in and through His life. Read His profound statement in John 13:31-32.

To speak of “glory” is to speak of the revealing of something or someone’s true character and greatness. What does Jesus say is revealed in and through Him?

Turn back to the first chapter of John, and let’s let John offer us a “commentary” on what we are reading in John 13. Read John 1:9-18. What is John’s point?

So, as you think about Jesus and reflect on His life intersecting yours—both as found in the pages of the Bible as well as in your own day-to-day life with Him, what is it that you are seeing? What does He want you to know about your relationship with Him?

What difference does this make?

Because Jesus lives in such intimacy with the Father, the life and character of the Father spills out through His life. In His living, Jesus puts the Father “on display.” What difference does this make? Read John 13:34-35. What is the connection between the idea here and what Jesus has told us about Himself?