

## Jesus Breaks It All Down

### Understanding the Jesus stories

The way Jesus dealt with **people then**:

- ✓ Is the way he deals with **us now**.
- ✓ Is the way we should deal with **people now**.

### Mark 1:40-45

When we approach Jesus we enter into his **willingness** not his **reluctance**.

The struggle for a Christian will always be between God's **greater plan** and **our desires**.

### Mark 2:1-12

Our greatest need is to **be forgiven**, not to get our **needs met**.

Truly understanding **forgiveness** is the key to our:

- ✓ **Love**
- ✓ **Commitment**
- ✓ **Sacrifice**
- ✓ **Worship**

### Going All-In

# Life Group Study Questions

For the week of February 10, 2019

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## FOUR FRIENDS

1

The four friends from the sermon absolutely would have wanted a front row seat to see Jesus, but instead went out of their way to bring their paralyzed friend through a roof. As you think about their great sacrifice, what comes to mind about your own willingness to serve others?

2

Proverbs 27:17 points out how two friends have the ability to "sharpen" each other, similar to how iron is able to sharpen iron. Can you think of any ways friendships have helped sharpen your faith?

Can you think of any ways friends can do the opposite and make each other dull?

3

How could the following verses help us in developing our friendships?

*(NIV= New International Version)*

**Proverbs 12:26** - *The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

**Proverbs 27:5-6** - *Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup> Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

**Proverbs 13:20** - *Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

## OUR "INSTEADS"

1

Let's face it, there are plenty of things God asks us to do that are really challenging. Like the story we heard this weekend, we can find ourselves giving excuses ("insteads") for why we aren't following God when we disagree, or want to do things our own way. Below are several examples for the types of excuses we use.

- *Justification*: Here's why what I'm doing/not doing is ok
- *Minimize*: What I'm doing/not doing isn't really a big deal
- *Compare*: What I'm doing/not doing isn't as bad as that person
- *Ignore/Deny*: What problem? It's not really a problem

When you look at the verses below, write down at least one example of an excuse that someone might use to avoid putting these verses into action.

(NIV= New International Version)

**Proverbs 3:9** - *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;*

**John 15:12** - *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

**Matthew 20:26-28** - *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,<sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**Luke 6:27-28** - *"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

Which of these "insteads" do you find yourself using the most?

Can you think of any tools, people or strategies that help when you're tempted to use "insteads?"

## TAKING IT HOME

As you look back on the sermon and study questions, can you think of any friends/co-workers/family you want to be more intentional in serving in the next few weeks?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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