



Group Discussion Guide: With Jesus On-On-One | January 16, 2022

Begin with prayer (5 minutes).

Split into three or four mini-groups for Scripture and reflection (20 minutes).

In this sermon, Dan spoke of Jesus' one-on-one interaction with John the Baptist from Luke 7, focusing on our expectations of Jesus and our willingness to follow him should our expectations be challenged or go unmet.

For the next few moments, take some time to reflect together in smaller groups on the relationship between expectations and following Jesus.

- What role do expectations play in your relationships?
- Do you think that people today place unfounded expectations on Jesus? What do you think are the most common ones?
- When you think about your own faith, what expectations do you have of Jesus? What expectations do you think you *should* have of Jesus according to Scripture?
- Have there ever been any moments where it didn't seem like he met those expectations? How did you handle that moment?

After your allotted mini-group time is finished, have everyone circle back up in one big group to share their insights.

Come back together as a large group. Read Luke 7, go over the sermon, and share your thoughts and insights (35 minutes).

- How did your mini-group discussions go? What sorts of things rose to the surface from those conversations?
- **Read Luke 7:18-35.** What stands out to you about John the Baptist? What were his expectations of Jesus? Does anything surprise you from this passage?
- When you listened to Dan preach his sermon from **Luke 7** on this text, was there anything that resonated in you more than anything else? What was it? Explain.
- In his sermon, Dan said that often times, "If God doesn't come through, if he doesn't meet our expectations, we *question* if he's real, if he's good, or whether we are going to trust and worship him." Have you ever wrestled with any of those results of God not meeting our expectations (Him not being real or Him not being good or Him not being trustworthy)? Share about your experience.



- Towards the end of this message, Dan came around to a central question: “Why is it so hard to follow Jesus?” And in his message, he gave three reasons: (1) Because Jesus doesn’t take away our suffering; (2) Because Jesus tells us what we don’t always want to hear; and (3) Because Jesus doesn’t always give in to our demands. When you think about your own journey in following Jesus, which one of these is easiest for you? Which one is the hardest for you? Why?
- How do you find yourself responding to both God and other people in your life when either (1) Jesus doesn’t take away your suffering or (2) Jesus tells you what you don’t want to hear or (2) Jesus doesn’t give in to your demands?
- **Read Luke 7:3.** What truths about Jesus have been the most central in helping you remain steadfast in following him?
- What is one way your life group can help you remain faithful in following Jesus when you one day, inevitably, find yourself facing dire straits?

Split into gendered accountability groups (15 minutes).

Throughout this series, we’ll create space each week to have accountability with one another. This will provide each person a more intimate and hopefully safer space to share where they might struggle. Here are a few questions to guide this time after you split from one another:

- How is your relationship with God lately? How is it with your soul?
- What expectations have you wrongly put on Jesus that you need to let go of?
- Is there anything from this message that made you uneasy or made you feel like you have fallen short of what God wants for you and your life? Explain.
- What has your time in Scripture and prayer been like recently?
- Who are you trying to bring to Lord? Who can this group be praying for?
- How can this group pray for you right now?

Finish by praying over and for one another.

Come back as a large group and finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close in prayer.