

Fear of Insignificance Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Who is one person outside of your family who has played an important role in your life? Explain.
2. What is your favorite dessert?

Read the following passages: Matthew 2:1-18; John 3:22-30.

Herod the Great and John the Baptist had completely opposite responses to the arrival of Jesus. Herod the Great did everything he could to secure his position of significance and power. John, on the other hand, said of Jesus, "He must become greater; I must become less." John's short life gives us a powerful picture of the sometimes paradoxical path to significance. John lived in obscurity for decades, he never had a formal title, he operated outside of the recognized power structures, and he gladly gave away his following and influence. Significance is not about impressing people. It's about doing what God has called us to do.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Is it wrong to want to be noticed or to desire to make an impact? Explain. What are some healthy or unhealthy ways you try to meet the human need for significance?
2. Herod the Great made a decision very early in his life that he would be loyal to Rome. How do our commitments shape our identities? What are some commitments (to people, organizations, causes, ideals, etc.) that shape who you are? Are there any commitments you need to add or remove from your life? Explain.
3. John lived a very unusual and challenging life. How do we develop the character necessary to do what God has called us to do, especially when this might not align with cultural expectations?
4. When the time was right, John took action, preaching and baptizing all around the Jordan River. Are there any areas of your life in which you struggle to take action? Explain. What do you think would help you take action?
5. John played a very important role, but there were almost surely people around him pressing him to do even more. How do we know when it's right to pursue more (whatever that might mean in different circumstances)? Why do you think our culture is so enamored with more (more money, more possessions, more degrees,

more activities, etc.)?

6. John helped many other people move forward in God's purpose for their lives. What are some ways you feel that you can be a catalyst for God's purposes in the lives of others?
7. How can our identity as sons or daughters of God help us navigate feelings of insignificance?

Pray