

Who Do You See? Small Group Guide

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

1. What's one of the most breathtaking sights you've ever visited?
2. Do you wear corrective lenses? If so, much "correction" does your eyesight need?

Read the following passages: Luke 8:40-48.

Not long after Jesus' public ministry began, he was attracting massive crowds. In some cases (like the passage above) the crowds were so great they almost crushed him. And because of Jesus' healing ministry, these crowds often included people in crisis. Crowds and crises were a regular part of Jesus' experience, and they are often a regular part of our experience. Even with the pressure of such numbers and the associated crises, however, Jesus, as this account exemplifies, never stopped seeing the individual. We, too, in the midst of our activities and daily demands, need to have eyes to really see the people around us.

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

1. Although the woman who touched Jesus' cloak was anxious about being identified, why do you think Jesus considered it important? How might the exchange ultimately have helped this woman? (We should not necessarily assume that the words recorded here exhaust all that Jesus and the woman said to each other. After all, at some point somebody gained information about the nature and duration of her physical malady.)
2. Why do you think being seen, known, and understood is so important for our well-being? Discuss how this can play a significant role in areas such as the workplace, friendship, marriage, parenting, and business negotiations.
3. Do you feel known and understood? Explain.
4. What are some practical ways we can give others the gift of being seen and understood?
5. How we look at people makes a big difference. Read Luke 7:36-50. Contrast Jesus' and Simon the Pharisee's view of the same woman. Why do you think they had such different perspectives?
6. Jesus looked at people with love. What might it look like practically for us to do the same?
7. Jesus saw great potential in some unlikely places including the tax collector's booth and the fishing boat. What can we do to begin seeing people with eyes of faith

without denying obvious realities?

8. What is one way you would like to start seeing people differently?

Pray