



Jesus Changes Everything

Week of April 3, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 8:28-34

Jesus went wherever his ministry led him, changing lives along the way. His main priority was redeeming the lives of those who needed it. Sometimes an encounter with Jesus comes at a price; the kind of change Jesus effects might mean we have to give up everything we've become comfortable with. His presence in our lives might alienate us from other people who are unwilling to change. Jesus presents us with an option; stay broken, or accept his help and become whole because he cares about people more than anything else. He is calling us to change and live a radical life; what is your answer? Yes! or Go Away!

Pray

Jesus, you are calling us to change, to accept your restoration and redemption and to become whole in this broken world. I say Yes! Change me and make me be what you see instead of what I want.

Share Your Experience This Week on Social Media Using #SevernRun

Getting Started

- Bacon is one of Pastor John's favorite foods; what is your favorite food?
- Jesus went wherever his ministry took him and ministered to the people he came into contact with. What people does God put in your path who might need to hear about Jesus' love?

Listening Deeply

1. Jesus walks in and changes everything; has that ever happened to you? Share your story.
2. Jesus' main mission in the Bible was helping people get their lives back; he wants to heal and restore us as well. Is there something in your life that Jesus can redeem (and maybe you haven't been letting him) or that he has redeemed? Explain.
3. Read Matthew 8:28-34. Discuss why the entire town begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone.
4. Why does it take courage to accept the kind of change that Jesus brings?
5. You must give up everything to be changed by Jesus—nothing in your life is off limits. Why? How would you explain this concept to a new Jesus seeker?
6. True or False: Jesus change will alienate you from people who are unwilling to change. Explain your answer.
7. Living the kind of life that Jesus did means putting people and their well-being over everything else. How different would your life be if you spent your life caring about the things Jesus cared about? What would you have to stop focussing on?

Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus cares about you more than anything else in this world. He wants you to live a whole life, unhindered by whatever is holding you back. It takes courage to allow Jesus to change you, because he won't stop until you have become everything he wants you to be. His change might make you uncomfortable, or it might mean you have to give up some things or some people who are holding you back. What is Jesus trying to make different in you? Are you holding on to what he wants to take away? What is your answer to him? Will you say yes, or will you beg him to go away?