

Immerse: Messiah

Week 5

10/27/19

Discussion Questions explanation:

Immerse is designed for groups to encounter large portions of the Bible together for 8 weeks—more like a book club, less like a Bible study. Aim to understand the big story. Read through “The Stories and the Story” (p. 483) to see how the books of the Bible work together to tell God’s story of his creation’s restoration. As you read through Immerse: Messiah, rather than ask, “How do I fit God into my busy life?” begin asking, “How can I join in God’s great plan by living out my part in his story?”

The questions are a bit different from your average Bible study questions. When people read whole books of the Bible, they notice things for the first time. They may have questions they never thought to ask before. They may even come across things that trouble them. These discussion prompts are meant to help readers navigate the text without giving them all the answers. By meeting every week in small groups and discussing what you read in open, honest conversations, you and your community can come together to be transformed through an authentic experience with the Scriptures.

4 (book club style) Questions to get your conversations started:

1. What stood out to you this week?
2. Was there anything confusing or troubling?
3. Did anything make you think differently about God?
4. How might this change the way we live?

Additional Questions

If your group is really struggling to open up, here are some additional questions to consider. (The point is not for the group to get through all the questions, but to have open, honest and authentic conversations and experience with God’s word.)

1. What is the relationship between the Beelzebub(Satan) controversy (Mark 3:22-30) and the two incidences relating to Jesus family (Mark 3:20-21, 3:31-35)?
2. What do you notice about the first comment about Jesus’ suffering prediction coming immediately after Peter confession of who Jesus is?
3. How does Jesus identity gradually get revealed in Mark’s gospel?
4. What is unique (even ironic) about the characters at the cross? What might that teach us?
5. How might being a Christian bring some meaning to the suffering that comes from being a slave (1 Peter 2:18-21)?
6. 1 Peter 2:23 says that in his suffering, Jesus "entrusted himself to him who judges justly." How might a similar trust in God help you to submit to the necessary suffering that has come into your own life?
7. Finding a balance between responsible action for healthy change, and submission to authority, is a constant tension for the Christian who wants to obey this passage. How can you draw together both ends of this tension? (In what situations would you take action? At what point would you submit?) Consider what you say and do regarding civil government? in your job? in your relationships?