



Unbelieving Family

Share with each other about people in your lives that may benefit from being invited in to this Life Group. Discuss what potential challenges might arise from having them join the group, and come up with solutions to alleviate those. If time allows, have someone share their faith story or share some evidences of God's grace that you have observed this past week.

OPENING COMMENT

If you have loved ones who don't believe in Jesus you are you know what it's like to both care deeply for their souls and experience the rejection that comes because of your faith. Take heart, Jesus has been there too. And by looking at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are shown how we are to live for Him and lead others to follow Him.

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

READ THE TEXT: John 7:1-13

¹After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ²Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵For not even his brothers believed in him ⁶Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." ⁹After saying this, he remained in Galilee... *continue*



HOW DO WE LIVE:

I. WHEN OUR LOVED ONES DON'T BELIEVE IN JESUS?

1. When Hebrews describes us as having a High Priest (Jesus) who sympathizes with our weaknesses, it includes having loved ones who are unbelievers. When those dear to you don't believe in Jesus, what difference does it make that Jesus (your Mediator) has been there too?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-2 and 3:15-17 and discuss the importance of both putting the gospel on display through our actions and taking opportunities to winsomely communicate the gospel. Why does one and not the other fall short?
3. Which is the greater challenge for you? Living a life that matches your theology or speaking the gospel with those who don't believe?

II. WHEN GOD'S TIMING IS DIFFERENT THAN OURS?

1. One of God's *incommunicable attributes* (attributes that the creator does not share with His creation) is that He is eternal. Meaning, God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time, acts in time, and will always exist in time. To better understand God's *timing* we need to better grasp His eternity. Read Psalm 90:2, 4; Job 36:26; 2 Peter 3:8.
2. Discuss how our sense of God taking a long time to do things in our lives corresponds with God's eternal nature and the Bible's oft repeated theme of waiting (Abraham waiting for a son; wilderness wandering for 40 years; 400 years of silence between Testaments; etc.).
3. We also see, in the midst of God's eternity, His Sovereign timing. Read Acts 17:30-31; Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 24:14; 2 Peter 3:8-9; John 7:6)
4. How is God's timing better than ours and more gracious than it appears at first blush?

CONCLUSION

How do we live when our loved ones don't believe in Jesus and God's timing is different than ours? After the resurrection of Jesus His brothers believed. It may take a few decades of prayerfully witness, but we seek God's sovereign timing and grace for our unbelieving loved ones as well.



SHARE & PRAY

- Identify the names of those in your lives who don't know Jesus and spend an extended time in prayer that they would believe and be saved (feel free to read Biblical Truths of Scripture and pray about them).
- Pray for courage, opportunity, and words to say with your unbelieving loved ones.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.



Our church-wide Prayer Worship Gathering is taking place on Sunday, May 1st from 6-7 PM. There is age-appropriate prayer and song in children's areas. Consider making your Life Group night the Prayer Worship Gathering next week.

