



Discussion Guide

Section #16: MINISTRY OF JESUS

Read to the Group: Jesus performed hundreds of miracles in public places, but still many said that they had to see more in order to believe.

Group Questions:

1. Why do you think people ask for more miracles after they have already seen some?
2. Can you remind us what might happen to our faith if it is only based on a miracle rather than on genuine trust in God?

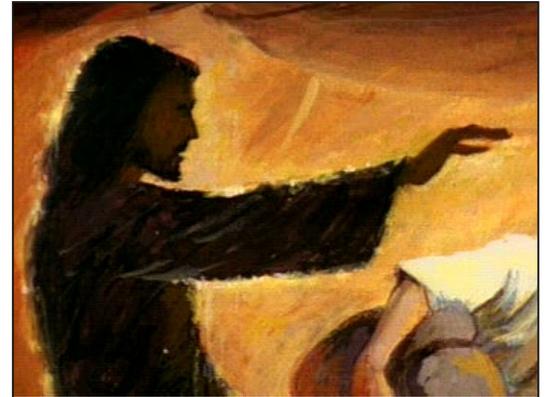
Leader Information: Some people really are not seeking truth. They only want personal benefits without any personal commitment or change. Once again, this is an opportunity to see where your class members stand in terms of faith. You can use this section to once more point them to prayer and trust of God's Word as their foundation. Remind them to find a confirmation of the truth through prayer and the words of the Bible. Encourage them to pray, "Lord, please help me believe that what you say is true."

Read this Scripture to the Group:

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matthew 9:35).

Group Questions:

1. How do you see Jesus Christ demonstrating God's love to the people?
2. If He was walking in the world today, how could He reveal His love?
3. How would you want him to show love to you?
4. If you could speak to him what would you like to ask Him or say to Him?



Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Begin with "Jesus revealed himself as the Promised Savior" (side shot of Jesus teaching with His hand out)... through... "neither shall any man snatch them out of my hand" (close-up of lamb in shepherd's hands). 7 min 26 sec



Leader Information: Their answers, about what happened and what they would want, will probably be the same as what the people of Jesus day wanted. Members of your class will want what Jesus said and did for the people in the New Testament times; healing, speaking in kindness and touching places in the heart that hurt. Perhaps mention that the deepest needs of all people, in all countries for all times, have been very much the same as the needs you feel.

Group Questions:

1. Nicodemus struggled with what Jesus said about being born again. How did Jesus explain the term 'born again'?
2. What does 'being born again' mean to you?

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

Read to the Group: Although most of the religious leaders did reject Jesus, some such as Nicodemus chose to follow Him. That is still happening today as well. In our days groups of Jewish Rabbis (religious leaders) still read the scripture prophecies together. Some of them, as they read, hear God speak to them clearly through the prophecies and their eyes open to the truth. They allow God to work in their hearts and make the choice to trust in Jesus Christ as the promised Savior.



Group Question:

1. After people had read the prophecies about Jesus and then saw Him fulfill every one, why do you think they did not all believe?

Leader Information: Let the group give their own thoughts here. Show agreement with the responses that reflect understanding of what God's Story has revealed up until now. Hopefully they will figure out why people still rejected Jesus even after they had heard and seen many miraculous things done by Him. They might recognize that:

The rejection of Jesus stemmed from:

- Wanting to do their own will instead of God's
- Being prideful
- Wanting to have power over others instead of allowing God to be the highest power
- Not admitting to being a sinner

Trusting Jesus as Savior came from:

- Wanting to please God
- Admitting their sinfulness
- Recognizing the impossibility of covering ones own sin
- Having a desire to know the truth

Read to the Group: I am going to read a list of some of the many phrases Jesus used to describe Himself and His work. After I read it, I will then hand a copy to each of you.

Leader Information: Read list (*Handout #3*) then give each person a copy of Handout #3. Give them a moment to glance at the list and then ask the next question. Only use question number three if you want to encourage the members to go into more detail than they did in their responses to question number two.

Group Questions:

1. How important to our existence are these words that Jesus uses to describe Himself to us?
2. Which of these phrases speaks to you most clearly?
3. Would any of you like to say why you liked a particular description of Jesus?

Transition Statement: Now (*or* next time when we meet) we will find out in the next segment how people responded to the kind deeds, miracles and teachings of Jesus.