

Week 3

Monday, April 14th



Pray: Ask God to use this day and this study to reveal a bit of his character to you.

Read Luke 9:10-17.

Context for aiding further understanding of the passage: In this passage, when Luke refers to "the Twelve" he is writing of the disciples. There were twelve disciples of Jesus.

What is of greatest value to Jesus?
(Sometimes my greatest value is sleep.)

How does this value differ from the expected value of the disciples?

List the amazing events collected in this passage.

Which event seems the most amazing to you? Why?

What does this event (from the previous question) communicate to you about the character of Jesus?

How does this portion of the character of Jesus impact your view of him?

Action Step: Invite someone to join you for a meal. You could serve fish sticks and white bread, and talk about this account of Jesus. Talk candidly about your understanding and your questions concerning Jesus and his claims.

Week 3

Tuesday, April 15th



the GOD
experiment

Read the following excerpt from Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), "The Five Ways". This is the third way.

The existence of God can be proved in five ways

"The third way is taken from possibility and necessity, and runs thus. We find in nature things that are possible to be and not to be, since they are found to be generated, and to corrupt, and consequently, they are possible to be and not to be. But it is impossible for these always to exist, for that which is possible not to be at some time is not. Therefore, if everything is possible not to be, then at one time there could have been nothing in existence. Now if this were true, even now there would be nothing in existence, because that which does not exist only begins to exist by something already existing. Therefore, if at one time nothing was in existence, it would have been impossible for anything to have begun to exist; and thus even now nothing would be in existence---which is absurd. Therefore, not all beings are merely possible, but there must exist something the existence of which is necessary. But every necessary thing either has its necessity caused by another, or not. Now it is impossible to go on to infinity in necessary things which have their necessity caused by another, as has been already proved in regard to efficient causes. Therefore we cannot but postulate the existence of some being having of itself its own necessity, and not receiving it from another, but rather causing in others their necessity. This all men speak of as God."

What is your opinion of this the third way? Is Aquinas simply crazy?

How does this bit of logic impact your understanding of God?

Action Step: If this is not how your brain works, find a friend who thinks this way and listen to what they have to say about this idea of Aquinas. Maybe drawing it out would be helpful.

INTERVARSITY

Week 3 Wednesday, April 16th



Pray: Ask God to use this day and this study to reveal a bit of his character to you.

Read Luke 9:51-56.

Context for aiding further understanding of the passage: The Samaritan's and the Jewish people did not get along. The Samaritans were seen as second rate by the Jewish folks. There was a great amount of enmity between the two people groups. The first sentence in this passage is referring to the death of Jesus which was to happen in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the spiritual hub for the Jewish people and a place the Samaritans were not welcome. There is also a lot of political dissonance following Jesus at this time so the Samaritans are trying to steer clear of that as well.

What prompts James and John to suggest fire from heaven as an answer to the slight? What are they saying about who they believe Jesus to be?

What do we learn about the disciple's view of Jesus authority?

Using what we have already study as a basis for this question, what events would have caused the disciples to believe fire from heaven was even possible?

What seems more improbable to you the previous events or fire from heaven? Why?

What does this event (from the previous question) communicate to you about the character of Jesus?

How does the understanding of the disciples in this passage impact your view of Jesus?

Week 3 Thursday, April 17th



Pray: Ask God to use this day and this study to reveal a bit of his character to you.

Read Luke 10:38-42.

At face value, what is Martha's issue with Mary?

What would be shocking about the answer Jesus gives to Martha? What is Martha's 'real' issue?

What has Mary chosen, the 'good portion'?

What does this event reveal about the teaching of Jesus?

Is there a way in which you have kept busy and neglected the 'good portion'? How?

Pray: Ask God to reveal to you today what it is that busyness may be preventing you from seeing, doing, learning, or sharing.

Week 3

Friday, April 18th



Pray: Ask God to use this day and this study to reveal a bit of his character to you.

Read Luke 18:15-17.

What are the people signifying by bringing their children to Jesus?

Obviously Jesus is not saying you must once again actually be a child to receive the kingdom of God, what does he mean? What is the point of the hyperbole?

What is Jesus saying about our approach to understanding who he is?

What is hard to understand in this idea of being like a child?

Where does this idea make a lot of sense?

How does this impact your view of Jesus?

Pray: As God to remind you of what it means to think like a child throughout this day.

Week 3

Sat. & Sun, April 19th & 20th



Special Activity: Take a trip to the Strong Museum of Play. Spend some time remembering what it means to imagine just because you can, to laugh because its fun, and to trust because you want to. What does God think about play, fun, and laughter? What do you see that is encouraging you in your search for who Jesus claims to be?

Local churches

Artisan Church:
1235 S. Clinton Ave. 14620
Sunday 10AM & 5PM (ASL Interpretation)
artisanchurch.com

Browncroft Community Church:
2530 Browncroft Blvd. 14625
Sunday 8:45AM, 10AM (ASL Interpretation), & 11:15AM
browncroft.org

Church Service: If you are regularly attending a church, please continue to do so and answer the applicable questions. Everyone else please choose a church from the list provided and answer the following questions concerning the experience. There are many types of churches in our area. This is a gift in that we can see the different character traits of God exhibited in the whole of the church worship experience.

Father's House:
692 Paul Rd. 14624
Sunday 9AM & 11AM
tfhny.org

Grace Church:
@ Rochester Christian School
260 Embury Ext. 14625
Sunday school 9:15AM, Sunday Service 10:30AM
gracechurchpca.org

Mosaic:
@ MCC, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd. 14623
Sunday 10:30AM
ourfuturetogether.org

What does the set up of the church (decorations, platform, seating, etc.) tell you about the congregation's understanding of God's character?

North Baptist:
2052 ST. Paul St. Rochester 14621
Sunday 8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM
northbaptistchurch.org

Open Door Baptist:
350 Chili-Scottsville Rd. 14428
Sunday 9:30AM & 11AM
opendoorchili.org

How does the structure of the service communicate the character of God?

Trinity Alliance Church:
12745 Spencerport Rd. 14606
Sunday 10:30AM
gateschurch.com

What were the main points of the teaching portion of the service?

Trinity Communion Charismatic Episcopal Church:
759 Winona Blvd. 14617
Sunday 10AM
trinitycommunion.org

Any other Church or on-campus service are welcome

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