

Small Group Discussion Guide – December 11, 2011

"Face2Face - Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time" ~ the Gospel of John

Pendulum Swings: Pendulum swings, better known as icebreakers or getting started questions, are just a fun way to kickoff your small group time together by going from the not so serious to deeper connecting times.

As you begin your Small Group this week ... *"Tough Questions ... ?"*

- ✓ Which would be better ... Asking questions or giving answers?
- ✓ Which would be worse ... Lacking wisdom or lacking knowledge of God?
- ✓ Which would be better ... Being heard by God or being restored by God?

"Filled with His Fragrance"

Intro: **Pray together**

Each week re-read John 20:30-31 as a reminder of John's purpose in writing this account of Jesus' life. "... so that you may believe... and that by believing you may have LIFE in his name."

Read: John 12: 1-36 ... Notice how everything here is a result of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, and that the emphasis is on the death of Jesus.

1. What stood out to you as the most significant part of Dustin's testimony?
 - John 12 emphasized the astonishing result of someone coming back from the dead as a testimony to the power of God and Jesus' miraculous sign.
 - Discuss how our personal testimony of what Jesus has done for us can also be astonishing ... even miraculous.
 - In what ways are we able to use our story to help others see Jesus?
2. What was she thinking?
 - If it really was, why did Mary do such an extravagant thing in the anointing of Jesus' feet?
 - Discuss extravagant expressions of love for God of which you have been a part or have heard?
3. Discuss Judas' response.
 - How could he have been with Jesus for so long and still not 'get it'?
 - What aspects of following Jesus has it taken you a long time to 'get'?
4. Throughout this text, Jesus makes reference to his impending death.
 - Jesus states in John 12:22-26 that whoever follows him must die as well.
 - What does Jesus mean when he said to 'live' we must 'die'?
5. Jesus boldly states in John 12:32 that his death will draw 'all people' unto him.
 - How does his death draw you to Him?