

Small Group Discussion Guide – January 29, 2012

"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 ... "What if ... ?"

- ✓ ... you had to face your greatest fear?
- ✓ ... you received a phone call when you were watching a really good TV program?
- ✓ ... you did nice things for people who would never find out?
- ✓ ... you found yourself at the crucifixion of Jesus?
- ✓ ... you found yourself at the empty tomb?
- ✓ ... you then found yourself w/ the risen Jesus in the locked upper room?

"Grief to Joy" (sermon notes from David Mathews)

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."

Scripture Passages: John 14 - 16
Key Verses from the Lesson: John 15:9-13; 16:19-22

1. What is the main concern that Jesus has for his apostles as he gets ready to leave them?
 - In what way(s) does he begin to comfort them? (Read: John 14:1ff)
 - How does this teaching – *"I am going to prepare a place for you"* – comfort you?
2. In John 15, Jesus discusses the vine and the branches.
 - His command that we must obey is found in 15:12 and 15:17.
 - What does it mean to bear fruit?
 - How does/would obeying this command lead to bearing much fruit?
3. In John 16:7, Jesus claims that it is for their good that he is going away.
 - Discuss why it is good that Jesus is not here physically?
4. John 16:33, *"in this world you will have trouble"* – so that you can have peace.
 - What does it look like to have peace in this world of trouble?