

Small Group Discussion Guide – August 28, 2011
"Face2Face - Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time" ~ The Gospel of John
(Sermon notes from Ken Neller)

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 ... "Have you ever ...?"

- ✓ ... claimed to be someone or something that you are not?
 - Who?
 - Why?
- ✓ ... welcomed a new family to your neighborhood?
 - In what way(s) did you welcome them?
 - Was it a positive or negative experience?
- ✓ ... experienced the presence of God in a special or unusual way?
 - What happened?
 - How does it affect your life today?

Intro: Pray together
Read together **John 1:19-51**

1. Search through John 1 and make a list of all the claims which the Gospel writer, John the Baptist, Jesus, and the disciples make about Jesus and who he is.
 - How are these claims "substantiated" by the rest of the Gospel of John?
 - Which of these claims is most appealing to you? Why?
2. Read John 1:49-51 and then read Genesis 28:10-19.
 - What are the comparisons between these passages?
 - In what ways is Jesus' life like the angels ascending and descending on the ladder which Jacob saw?
3. Suppose you encounter someone who confidently and brashly says, "*Christianity is nothing but a superstition of men. Jesus was a Galilean peasant rabbi, and his disciples simply claimed he was the Messiah and miracle worker after his death.*"
 - In what ways would you be a "witness" to that person on behalf of Jesus? Or, would you be a witness?
 - If you would "witness", what would be your testimony?
 - What, if anything, in John 1 would influence or help in this discussion?
4. If Jesus is who John 1 claims that he is, how does that impact your life?