

## Small Group Discussion Guide – October 2, 2011

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

(Sermon notes from David Mathews)

**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 topics ..."**

- ✓ Which would be better ... sitting by a nice toasty fire or a long walk on the beach?"
- ✓ Which would be worse ... coming face to face in a public place with someone that you recently argued with or sitting by that person in church?"
- ✓ Which would be better ... winning the big game and giving Jesus the credit on a national stage or winning friends to Jesus by being a living example."
  - How would a non-Christian describe the life of following Jesus if all they had to go by was YOUR life?
  - Would they describe it as a life of LIFE or DEATH?

### **"Do YOU Want to Get Well?"**

**Intro:** Pray together  
Read: John 5:1-15

**As you begin:** 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."

As you read John 5, read it with this his purpose in mind.

1. Discuss how Jesus might have "asked" the question he asked the man:
  - "Do you want to get well?"
  - What might have been his tone of voice?
2. What was the purpose of Jesus asking this specific question?
  - How would you feel if someone asked you this if you were in the hospital suffering from a disease for years?
  - Might you be a little offended? Was Jesus trying to offend him?
3. Discuss the man's response. i.e., in what ways was his response an excuse while also being a legitimate response?
4. "Get up – take up your mat – and walk."
  - Why did Jesus give this intentional command to the man?
  - In what way(s) would Jesus have said this?
5. How does "when Jesus found the man" imply that Jesus was, or may have been, looking for the man.
  - What are the implications for us today?