

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Seeing Jesus

Have there been any portrayals of Jesus you have seen on film or TV that have been special or meaningful for you? If so, please share a little with the group.

When you think about Jesus, what unique qualities that he possessed come to mind?

What moment in the life of Jesus, as seen in the gospels, has meant most to you as you have sought to follow him?

Stuart talked on Sunday about how difficult it is to imagine what Jesus looked like physically, but also how that is far less important than what we can learn about his nature and character.

He said: *“Seeing Jesus is always more than what we can see with our eyes”*.

What aspect of the nature and character of Jesus inspires or challenges you most?

Matthew 15:31 *“The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.”*

Being blind to Jesus

On Sunday we considered how *seeing Jesus* can be difficult, for a number of reasons. Some that were highlighted were:

- We are blind to Jesus when we are focused on ourselves.
- We are blind to Jesus when our lives are out of condition.
- We are blind to Jesus when our attention is elsewhere.

Can you think of any other things we experience that affect our capacity to see Jesus in our lives?

Seeing beyond ourselves

Read: **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

What are these *unseen* things that Paul is talking about?

How does *seeing* these help us navigate the challenges of life?

Time to reflect:

At the end of Sunday’s meeting, we sang an old song:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of his Glory and Grace.*

Pause as a group. Sit back. Close your eyes. And think about Jesus

Then...

- Offer a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for who he is.
- Ask him to help you see any aspect of his character or nature you need to see.
- Ask him to clear the things that are in the way for you.

Read these verses out loud: **Ephesians 1:18-19** *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”*

Finally, pray for any of your friends or family who can’t see Jesus at the moment. Ask the Lord to open the eyes of their understanding to see him, his love, his grace, and his offer of salvation.