

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Deconstruction: A Doubter's Journey

Week 3: Pursuing Jesus' Beauty

March 19, 2023

John 21:1-14

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Deconstruction is a journey of unpacking, rethinking, and examining our belief system. Wise, purposeful deconstruction can be healthy, but deconstruction without reconstruction can lead us down a dark path. This week we continue to wrestle with our questions and doubts in a way that hopefully yields growth, instead of destruction.

Kicking It Off:

What's your favorite breakfast food — especially, when someone else is cooking it?

Discussion:

1. By way of review, what's taking place in John 21:6-11, as shown below? What massive and miraculous event took place shortly before this happened? (See John 20:19 for reference.) And what possible reason did Jeff mention for the specific number 153, included in this passage?

"He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn."

2. If you've ever been in a broken or struggling relationship, would you consider trying to go back to where it all began, just to help mend it? What do you make of Jesus going "back to where it all began" by telling Peter where to cast his fishing net?
3. Jeff mentioned the benefits of getting back into a habit or revisiting where he first began to purposefully walk with the Lord. What would that look like for you and your life, to intentionally reconnect with Jesus?
4. Take a look at Revelation 2:3-4. What does God have to say about those who abandon their first spiritual love? What steps can we take to ensure we don't begin to deconstruct our faith? What lessons can we take away from famed evangelist Charles Templeton's story?

"You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first."

Wrapping Up:

Our first love is designed to be the love Christ gives us for God and each other. Pray each member of your group has a zeal for the truth, able to withstand honest questions and real doubts, like Ephesians 4:11-14.

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth."