

Returning to First Things

John 17:22 – 26

With Easter just around the corner, it's the perfect time to return to first words and first assignments, both for Jesus and His disciples. Oh, and for you and me, too! Today, we'll let the Apostle John be the guide for that journey.

1. Jesus' first words to disciples. (Matt. 4: 19; Luke 5:1 – 11)
 - a. Disciples responsibility: follow
 - b. Jesus' promise: make us into something
 - c. Combined outcome: _____
 - d. Key life theme: _____
2. "... having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." (John 13:1)
 - a. The meaning of **end**: _____
 - b. Some supporting Scripture: Col. 2:9-10; Eph. 3:19; Phil. 1:6; II Cor. 3:18; James 2:2-4; I Peter 5:10; Phil. 3:12
 - c. John's writing: a REFLECTION
 - d. The reason that's important: _____
3. (Some) First words and concepts revisited (John 17:22-26)
 - a. Jesus' glory in us expressed in: ONENESS
 - b. Disciples made complete through _____ with Father and Son
 - c. Outcomes of this oneness and completion include: PLACE, KNOWLEDGE, NAME and _____
4. So, what's our assignment? (17:1 -21)
 - a. Jesus' assignments: GLORIFY, ETERNAL LIFE, FINISH
 - b. Our assignment: _____
 - c. It's outcome: BELIEF
 - d. It's platform: _____
5. Then how do true disciples see themselves?

Life Group Homework

1. Read John 13:5 – 35. What do you think was "new" about the commandment to love that Jesus gave the disciples? What made this so difficult for the disciples early on? What makes it difficult for us?
2. Scan John 14 – 17 and make a list of topics Jesus covers that seem important for a disciple's growth and effectiveness. Be prepared to discuss your selections, why they are important and ways they may apply today.
3. Read all of John 17. What do you think is the main message of the relationship between Father and Son? Between Son and disciples? Between Father, Son and disciples? What do these relationships bring to our lives and what's their purpose?
4. Based on John 13 – 17, how does a disciple's life (your life) relate to the reality and message of eternal life?