



## Discussion Questions

November 11, 2018

### This is God's World

#### Introduction:

Text: James 1:27 Luke 19:10

As followers of Christ, we want our hearts to reflect God's heart – to love who he loves, and how he loves. It is clear in his communication to us – God loves widows, orphans – and lost people.

#### Reading & Discussion Questions:

##### James 1

<sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: *to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

“A father to the fatherless, **a defender of widows**, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families ...” (Psalms 68:5-6)

1. Why do you think it is that God has such a soft spot in his heart for widows? And widowers? If you happen to have lost a spouse, can you share with the group what that is like, and what it means to you that God cares about you?

“*A father to the fatherless*, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families ...” (Psalms 68:5-6)

Jesus made it clear that he cares about kids, and he expects his people to look after, care for and protect kids. Matt. 19:13-15 and 18:6-10.

2. No child is more vulnerable and at risk than a homeless, parent-less child. The statistics are rather staggering as to how many orphan children are in the world. What is your honest reaction when you hear of these statistics and are then challenged to step in and do what you can to support efforts to care for such children? Is there anything that you have begun to do for at-risk kids as a result of the challenge this past Sunday? What would stop you?

Invite any adoptive family, fostering family or adopted person in your group to share what that experience has meant in their life.

## **Luke 19**

<sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The world is so full of people who have no knowledge of Jesus. An *unreached people group*, as defined by the Joshua Project, is “a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance”. In other words, there are no Christians around for anyone in that group to hear of Jesus. Almost 3 billion people world-wide fall within this group.

According to Best Places.net, Religion in Cincinnati, only 52.5% of the people in the tri-state are religious: Out of a population of 2.3 million people in the metro area, that leaves roughly over a million people in our town who don't know Christ.

It is hard to get your head around 3 billion people world-wide. Or 1,092,500 unsaved people in Cincy. But if each of us who know an unsaved person will speak personally of our faith with that person, we could make a big dent in those numbers pretty fast.

3. What tends to slow you or stop you from sharing your faith with other people? Have you had successes in speaking of your faith and unsaved people being receptive?

**Matthew 9** <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus said he is the way to a certain relationship with God and certain eternal life with God. He made no allowance for any other way. So it is crucial that we share what we know. You may be the only Christian your neighbor knows.

The most effective way for an unsaved person to hear of Christ is is one-on-one with a friend – with you.

4. And how do you do that? With a story. The story of you and God. Far less difficult. You don't have to figure it out or memorize it, you know what it is. You can practice it so it flows and feels natural. But it is your story and it is interesting, intriguing, and irrefutable.

## **Conclusion:**

Close your time together by each sharing your story as to how you came to know Christ, and how your life is different because of him. Then pray for an unsaved friend and ask that God might give you the opportunity to share your story with that friend.

## **John 3**

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.