

Discussion questions – May 31 - John 12:34-41 –

1. IF WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK AND IF WE ARE TRULY GROWING IN OUR DESIRE TO KNOW GOD - How has God's Word impacted your life this week?
2. How is everyone doing this week? Any new challenges? How have they seen God at work? (make this a regular feature, nothing encourages like reports of what God is doing in our lives.
3. Any follow up or carry over from our last lesson?
4. What one point resonated with you from the lesson this morning? What stands out the most to you from this lesson?  
\*\*\*\*\*
5. Jesus turns again to the well-known symbolism of light and darkness? What is the brightest light you've been around or seen? Where is the darkest (w/o light) place you have ever been?
6. Discuss the absolutely amazing statement Jesus makes in verse 36, "that you may become sons (children) of light." Talk about the significance of that considering the context – so many who are walking in darkness. What does Jesus say makes us sons of light? Why is the last statement of v. 36 so sobering? Is the meaning physical? spiritual? Both?
7. What stands out to you when you read verse 37? Many of these people saw the amazing miracles of Jesus. Including raising Lazarus from the dead! How could someone see such amazing things and still look at Jesus with contempt? Doesn't this contradict what we naturally believe? Do a miracle and people will believe. What does it say about human nature? Why are miracles themselves not enough?
8. How does persistent unbelief make it increasingly difficult to ever believe? Read verse 37 and then verse 39 – "they still did not believe...they could not believe", how impactful is that? What can we do for those around us that are stuck in their unbelief? What things did God bring into your life that caused you to move from unbelief to belief?
9. According to the passages in Isaiah what would you say is the reason anyone believes in Jesus? Is salvation a work of God or a work of man? How does your answer affect evangelism? The blindness of the audience didn't deter either Isaiah or Jesus from sharing the truth. What can we learn from them in this regard?
10. What do you say to the person who is trying to reconcile God's sovereignty over all the details of life and human responsibility? Why don't we have to choose one or the other? (because the Bible teaches both) How do we keep them in proper tension? (teach what the Bible teaches, acknowledge we're not God, and realize there's a mystery involved)
11. What are the implications of 12:41 where John quotes Isaiah 6 and says that Isaiah saw in some sense Jesus when he saw the glory and holiness of God?! (an amazing statement about Jesus' deity)

Discuss - What we take away... Sometimes the most dangerous place we can be is in church listening to the Word being taught. Oh God, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe and obey. (What is it that makes it dangerous? We can hear truth and not respond and be hardened in unbelief)

Pray that God would open up a door for you to share the gospel with someone this week. Pray for opportunities, boldness and clarity. Pray for someone you know to hear, to understand and to believe the gospel.