

“Increase Through Decrease” Group Study

Discovering Jesus: **Week 8**

Passage: John 3:22-36

Pastor Ryan Paulson

ICEBREAKER:

1. What was the best gift you have ever given or received?

As a way to get into the study, try to remember the Sermon Outline from Sunday:

(In case you get stuck, click this link for the filled in outline: [Increase Through Decrease - outline](#))

_____ is found through _____.

1. Reject _____ and embrace your _____.
2. Refuse the _____ and enmesh your _____.
3. Resist _____ and extend your _____.

_____ in self leads to _____, but _____ in Jesus leads to _____.



Discover the Way of Jesus

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the Scriptures that try to help us Discover the unique Way of Jesus that is found in the text.)

1. Focus on John 3:27-30. How does knowing who God is and who we are in relationship to God lead to greater humility?
2. Read Philippians 2:6-7. How does self-emptying lead to spiritual maturity?
3. According to Hebrews 12:1, in order to persevere in the race, we have to throw off everything that can hinder us. Describe what some of those hindrances might be (as opposed to sins that entangle).



Develop the Heart of Jesus

(This is the part of the study where we work on our own hearts. “How does my character need to grow and change because of this passage?”)

4. In what area of life do you need to increase in trusting Jesus, and decrease in trusting yourself?
5. List some of the dangers of comparing ourselves to others.
6. Discuss how becoming “lesser” increases joy.



Deploy for Renewal

(This is the part of the study that we ask, “What would God want us to do because of this passage?”)

7. Do some summer cleaning: Make a list of those things you need to get rid of, brush off, or put back out on the shelves in order to grow again spiritually.
8. Plan a service project with your group in order to bring joy to the community around you (senior home, shut in, illness, etc.)

Church Announcements & Info:

Women’s Worship & Prayer Night - Wednesday, June 7, 6:30-8pm in the Chapel
Gather together with the women of EFCC to pray and worship together... Just as women.

Baptisms on Father’s Day! - Sunday, June 18 in all Services

Fathers are meant to play a unique role in the development of the faith of the children, and it was our Heavenly Father who blessed Jesus when he was baptized. So, on this Father’s Day, we are going to invite Fathers to come and help bless and baptize their kids. If you have a child who is ready to be baptized, and you would want to be a part of baptizing them, or if you would like to be baptized, please reach out to Janelle at jwilson@efcc.org.

Lay Care Team

If you have spiritual giftedness for compassion, listening and prayer, we’d love to invite you to join EFCC's Lay Care Team and serve during specific time windows (like Sunday morning) to assist people struggling with urgent spiritual, emotional or practical needs.

For questions about serving on the Lay Care Team contact Dave Korinek (Congregational Care) at 760-781-2112.