

Discussion Guide

Series: Polarized wk3 Defining the Win

August 18, 2024



Big Idea

The ultimate win for Christians is to help people know and love Jesus.



Icebreaker

What was the last thing you won, or won at? How did it make you feel?



Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. As Paul describes himself here, what is clearly important to him? How does he approach accomplishing what is important to him? What are your initial reactions to his approach; do they make sense; what makes his approach potentially tricky to navigate?
2. As one considers embracing the importance of winning people for Christ, what are some tangible examples of how the method should & could change to accomplish this win? What are some personal sacrifices one may need to make to employ such methods? By making such sacrifices what is being built for us in the sight of another?
3. As a Christian, what does it look like to get caught up in the small wins? What are examples of good questions we can regularly ask ourselves to keep the ultimate win in mind and the small wins at bay?
4. Read John 17:20-23. Who was Jesus praying for here? What was He praying for? Why was/is this important to Him & to the Kingdom of God? With all that said, what is the definition of a “win” according to Jesus as seen in these passages?
5. Do you feel the Church (capital “C” Church, meaning all believers/Christian churches) does a good job at looking different from the world in the way of infighting, divisions, etc. or not, and why? What specific role could you personally play in this & how does this work to accomplish your own personal proclamation of Christ (per our God-directed church mission)?
6. Read the following Charles Spurgeon quote: *“We are to be faithful to truth; but we are not to be of a contentious spirit, separating ourselves from those who are living members of the one and indivisible body of Christ. To promote the unity of the church, by creating new divisions, is not wise. Cultivate at once the love of the truth and the love of the brethren.”*

-What things (preferences, etc.) do we, as the church, sometimes decide are more important than unity?



Concluding Question

Have someone look up the Apostles Creed on their phone and slowly read it to the group. Discuss/review it together. From this Creed, what are the elements of the Christian beliefs that are non-negotiables?



Prayer

With all that is going on in the world (tension among nations, natural disasters, etc.) read and pray Romans 15:13. Maybe pray it as it is (with the word “you”) and then pray it replacing the word “you” with “the world” as follows: *“May the God of hope fill the world with all joy and peace as the world trusts in him, so that the world may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*