

Connect Group Study 11th May 2022: Jesus Only

Last week Nicky Gumbel spoke at the Leadership Conference on 'Jesus Only'. In his interview with Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*, he asked the actor what difference had Jesus made in his life he said 'If I had to boil it down to one thing, I'd say He is my rock. He is the one in whom I put my trust.'

1. If you had to pick one word to describe what difference Jesus had made in your life, what would you say?
2. In what ways would you like to know God better?

Read: Ephesians 1:22-23

On Sunday in the *Church is For Everyone* series Jamie spoke about the power we can have in Jesus when our eyes are opened to him, and how he is the head of the church. In the next chapter Paul writes 'Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone' of the church (Eph. 2:20)

3. Is Jesus the rock of your:
 - a) daily life
 - b) church experience
 - c) Connect Group experience
4. The church is central to God's plan. What role does the church play in your life?
5. What can you do this week to keep Jesus at the centre of your life?

Read: Ephesians 1:17-18

6. Where do you get your wisdom from? Does Jesus only direct your life? If from places other than Jesus, are those voices louder than Jesus?
7. Jamie spoke about how for Paul, 'the eyes of your heart' would mean both our emotions and our thinking. Jago recently challenged us to have integrity in these two areas, along with our actions. Is Jesus shaping your thoughts, feelings and actions?
8. According to Paul's prayer, we acquire wisdom as we get to know God. How does knowing Jesus help us to see things differently? What difference would it make in your life if your eyes were more opened to Jesus?
 - *By knowing God's calling (our future), inheritance (our value), and power (resurrection power lives in us).*
 - *It's a totally counter-cultural way of looking at the world and ourselves, and Jesus being more loving and powerful than we can comprehend.*
9. What are some practical ways we can do that?
 - *By eagerly seeking both the Holy Spirit (the spirit of wisdom and revelation) and God's word. As we read the Bible (the revelation of Jesus) we are trained in exercising our minds, and understanding the voice of God who is always consistent with how he has revealed himself in the Bible.*

Pray

- The same prayer Paul prays in Ephesians 1:15-23 for HTC, for your Connect Group, for yourself and for a friend.
- Listen to God for words, pictures, verses that encourage and strengthen others with God's power.