



[Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions below the discussion questions.]

ON BECOMING BUTTERFLIES

May 15, 2022

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q – This week we begin a brand-new sermon series called “The Good and Beautiful Life,” and *beauty* is a key theme of this week’s message. As we begin our conversation, let’s share something beautiful we’ve seen, heard, tasted, smelled, or read recently—maybe a work of art, a part of the natural world, or an act of love you witnessed or experienced. Where have you seen beauty around you?

Q – Continuing to set the stage for this series, let’s talk about that title. What does the phrase “The Good and Beautiful Life” bring to mind for you? What are some characteristics of a good and beautiful life?

Q – Our passages for today are Mark 7:31-37 and Acts 2:42-47. Let’s start with the first part of the passage from Mark. *[Invite someone from the group to read Mark 7:31-35 out loud.]*

- What words would you use to describe Jesus’s approach to this situation, and his way of relating to this man?
- What strikes you as *beautiful* in Mark’s description of this encounter?
- As Christians, we are called to grow in likeness to Christ throughout our lives. As we reflect on Jesus’s attitude toward this man, and on the ways we typically interact with strangers, especially strangers in need, how might this passage challenge us to grow in likeness to Christ?

Q – Now let’s finish the passage from Mark. *[Ask someone to read Mark 7:36-37 for the group.]*

Reflecting on these verses, Pastor Bryan noted: “The way Mark has told this story and structured his gospel, he means for it to be heard as a summary statement, looking back on all that Jesus has said and done to this point. His teaching, his miracles, his handling of the disciples, his interactions with people. ‘He has done all things well.’ It wasn’t just good, it was beautiful. So *beautiful* that it stopped them in their tracks. So *good* that they couldn’t stop talking about it.”

- Thinking about Jesus’s ministry—his teaching, his miracles, his handling of the disciples, his interactions with people—what is one thing about Jesus’s life that strikes you as especially good and beautiful?

Q – In this series, we’re revisiting some practices we talked about a couple years ago in a series we called “BLESS”: **B**e in prayer. **L**isten with care. **E**at together. **S**erve with love. And **S**hare your story.

- How do these five practices add beauty and goodness to our lives? To the lives of those around us?
- Can you share a time when someone has blessed you by praying with you or for you, listening to you, eating with you, serving you, or sharing their story with you?
- Which one of these practices might you need to focus on in particular, in this season of your life?

Q – Reflecting on the passage from Acts 2 that describes the beautiful way the early church lived together, Pastor Bryan noted that “Jesus expects his followers to live such good and beautiful lives that people can’t help but *notice*, and *admire*, and, for a moment at least, be *open* to the possibility that God is behind it. Isn’t that what beauty does for people? . . . Jesus expects that the way we *do* our jobs, *love* our families, *treat* our neighbors, and *care* for the needy, will be so good, and so beautiful, that it will capture people’s imagination, and point them in a new direction.”

- When have you seen someone living such a good and beautiful life—in their job, their family, their neighborhood—that it pointed you toward God and his goodness?
- What is one step you can take, or change you can make, to add more beauty and goodness to the way you’re living right now?

HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have

questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.

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