



Week 3 | The Neighboring Church | February 12

Key Focus: When living in the “here and not yet” we need to focus on loving God and our neighbors.

Opening Up:

- Are you easily embarrassed? What kinds of things embarrass you?
- What is something you feel confident about doing and what is something you would feel very insecure about?
- Is there a talent that you wish you had? Why do you wish for it?
- What is in your “wheel house” or gift mix?
- There is something worse than failing; it is succeeding at the wrong thing. Have you ever been successful at the wrong thing?

Reference: Matthew 11:1-6

Discuss:

1. When something hard or bad happens, does your vision get clearer or muddier? (In Matthew 11: 2 John needs clarity because he is in prison)
2. John is wandering, “If Christ is King why is this happening to me?” Can you relate to John?
3. John is struggling because he is a bible-believing student. How is doubt a necessary component of a healthy faith?
4. In Matthew 11:6 Jesus acknowledges that his answers do not always immediately satisfy us. How does acknowledging that God’s ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8) help your faith?
5. John is learning how to live in the “here and not yet.” The kingdom is both at hand and is coming in the future. How would you describe what life is like in the “here and not yet” to someone who is not a Christian? (Matthew 11:4-5)
6. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus says he came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. How would you describe the Christian ethic to a friend?
7. Read this quote and discuss it. Where do you see the truth in it?
 1. “We see poverty and prosperity as similar problems. Though the circumstances of a child in poverty are different from those of a child in prosperity, they are both equally at risk. One child has too little. One child has too much. One child is in danger of forgetting about God because she doesn’t have enough. One child is in danger of forgetting about God because she has more than enough.”
8. Referencing the Neighboring Tool Kit, what is one thing you could do to serve your neighbor?
9. Pray.