

Can You See It?

Sharpening Our Focus (March 7th, 2021)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). Then make sure to watch our [Special Series Video](#)!
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of our heart to begin to see Jesus for who he truly is!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

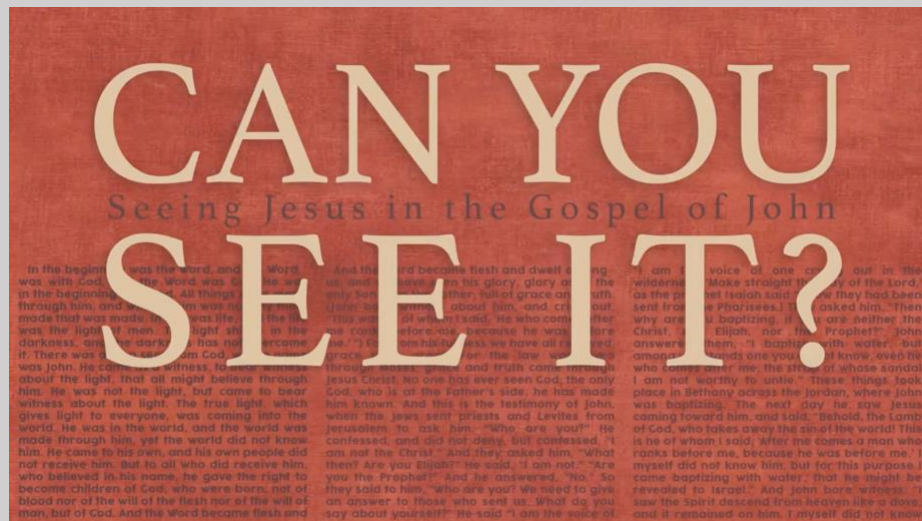
This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into our second week of our series titled *Can You See It?* Pastor Danny brought our attention to *John 6:25-35* and the story of the crowds responding to the feeding of the 5,000. John's account of this interaction challenges us to reflect on our own vision of Jesus by evaluating whether we come to Jesus for the perks he is able to bless us with or for the eternal life that Jesus offers! Pastor Danny reminds the church that even though the crowd was seeking after something good, the problem occurs when we become overly consumed with our pursuit of things in this world that do not eternally satisfy.

“John 6:25-35 is not a passage about being consumed with wrong things but being overly consumed with good things.” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Icebreaker – What was the most influential baptism story that you heard this week and why?

Series Video: Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses this week's sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



Objective #1: Explore your hidden motivations for seeing Jesus!

Primary Texts: *John 6:25-35 ff.* – Pastor Danny points to these texts to showcase that sometimes our motivations for seeing Jesus may be misaligned. He suggests that when the crowds pursue Jesus for the *bread* he provided, they were really pursuing him as the one who would lead them to economic prosperity, provision, security, and prolonged sustenance. Pastor Danny suggests that this passage is not necessarily about being consumed with the wrong things, but overly consumed with the “perks” of Jesus rather than Jesus himself. **If you were to explain the activity of Jesus in your life, what would you point to and why? In your opinion, what place do the blessings, or “perks”, that Jesus provides belong in this conversation?**

Objective #2: Share the most difficult roadblocks when it comes to seeing Jesus for who he truly is.

Selected Passages and Themes: *John 15:5 (Balance); Hebrews 5:9 (Perfection); Jude 24-25 (Power); Philippians 4:12-13 (Vitality)* – In the roundtable discussion video, each of our ministry leaders suggested one good thing that their community might desire above Jesus. **Fill in the blank: “You think you need _____? You don’t. You need Jesus!” In what ways does the thing you want from Jesus get in the way of the bigger things He has for you?**

Objective #3: Explore the 7 I Am statements and pray for your group to surrender their desires to Jesus!

Primary Texts: *I Am Statements John 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 11:25, 10:11, 14:6, 15:1* – Pastor Danny closes his sermon by sharing each of Jesus’ seven “I am” statements to suggest that Jesus is the one who will satisfy your cravings. Take some time as a group to explore each one and look at their context. **Which “I am” statement stands out to you the most and why? In what ways do you need to surrender your desire for _____ and pursue your relationship with Jesus?**

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing himself to us by sending His son! Praise the Son for becoming a human so that we might see the Father and have direct access to Him through the shed blood of Jesus Christ! Ask that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of our hearts so that we may continue to follow Jesus in a relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit as he equips us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we continue to stay connected to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead in our lives.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

-Can You See It! Series: Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our [YouTube channel!](#)

-Group Prayer: This week, pray that the Spirit would illuminate the truth of Jesus in our lives! Challenge one or two members of your group by contacting them with a truth about Jesus upon which you are reflecting!

-Further Reading: *John 9* Next week, we will explore an amazing miracle that had divisive consequences due to the barrier of religion! As you explore this chapter, pay attention to the way in which the religious leaders respond to Jesus as opposed to the one who was healed of his blindness!

-Community Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org