

Message Based Small Group
February 6, 2011

NOT-SO-GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Message: "Confrontation 2"

Luke 4:-16-30

INTENTION

Group members will learn that it is possible for us to miss out on what God wants to do in our lives simply because we have already boxed ourselves into our own expectations or the expectations of others. The group will be challenged to leave room for God to work in unexpected ways in their lives.

INTRODUCTION

This section gets the group thinking about expectations.

1. Go around the group allowing members to answer the following questions:
 - a. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Did your parents or other people have certain expectations of what you might become? Explain.
 - b. Did other people's expectations effect the direction you took in your life?
2. Say: The movie "Bucket List" is about two men's quest to fulfill all the things they ever wanted to do in their lives after receiving news that they were both terminally ill.
3. Ask:
 - a. Are there things in you life you have always dreamed of doing but haven't been able to yet?
 - b. Do you foresee the direction of you life changing drastically or do expect it to go pretty much the way you have mapped it out?
4. Say: We are going to look at both the expectations Jesus' family and neighbors placed on Him as well as the way expectations impacted the people around Jesus.

INVESTIGATION

In this section group members will discover how Jesus turned the expectation tables on those who refused to believe in Him.

1. Have a volunteer from the group read Luke 4:16-20
2. Discuss:
 - a. What kind of news was Jesus giving them?
 - b. Do you think there were people in that audience that could have used the kind of news Jesus was offering?
 - c. What did Jesus do or say that was controversial?
3. Ask a volunteer to read Luke 4:22-24
 - a. How did people react to Him in verse 22?
 - b. Why do you think the people from Jesus' home town reacted to him the way they did?
 - c. Have you ever had trouble getting recognition or respect from the people that knew you growing up? Explain.
 - d. What does the proverb Jesus quoted in verse 24 mean? How does it compare to the expression: "You are only an expert if you come from at least 50 miles away or more."

INTERACTION

This section will get group members comparing their own attitudes to the attitudes of the people from Nazareth.

1. Do you think people in church are ever guilty of the same kind of attitude toward Jesus as the people of Nazareth had? What are the similarities?
2. How do you think growing up in a “Christian nation” or being a “church kid” can cause people to be apathetic or dismissive of Jesus?
3. What are the dangers of growing up in a Christian home, when it comes to having a vital relationship with Jesus Christ?
4. Say: I am going to re-read what Jesus said he would do for his audience. As I read it, think whether this would be an offer you or your family could use.
5. Read Luke 4:16-19.
6. Ask:
 - a. How would an offer like this be relevant today?
 - b. How would it be relevant to you?
 - c. What is the point Jesus is trying to make about what he wants his relationship with you to be like?

INSTRUCTION

This section examines Jesus response to people who underestimate Him.

1. Choose a volunteer to read Luke 4:25-32
2. Ask if anyone is familiar with the story of the widow and Elijah and can retell it?(if not you can read I Kings 17:8-16 to familiarize yourselves with it) Ask if anyone is familiar with the story of Naaman and can retell it? (if not, you can familiarize yourselves with it by reading II Kings 5:1-14).
3. What do you think was Jesus’ point from these two stories? (By underestimating or overlooking Jesus, people can miss out on what He wants to do for them).
4. Why do you think Jesus statement made people so furious?
5. Does talk about Jesus still upset people these days? Explain.
6. What does Jesus, seemingly effortless escape from his would-be assassins tell you?

IMPLEMENTATION

This section challenges the group to not buy into the idea that we are going to lead normal lives. They will allow Jesus to lead them outside “the box” of peoples’ expectations. Group members will be willing to believe that Jesus can do extraordinary things in and through them.

1. Say: A few years ago it was a popular thing to wear bracelets with the letters WWJD (which stood for “What Would Jesus Do?” Maybe a better question to ask is: “What **Might** Jesus Do” if I am willing to trust Him?
2. Ask:
 - a. What do you think was the difference between the people’s attitudes toward Jesus in his hometown and the people of Capernaum? (*The people in Capernaum believed he could change their lives and came to him for help*).
 - b. Is there an area of you life you could really use some help in right now? (*allow group members to share needs*)
 - c. Are you willing to give Him control and to trust Him?
3. Close by bringing fellow group members needs to God in prayer.