

CLEARING THE FOG

BIG IDEA

To cut through all the fog of this world, we need to choose between the chaos of self or the Kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 13 before your small group meeting.

OPENER

How do you define the Kingdom of God (Kingdom of Heaven)?

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the things in the Kingdom of (insert your name here) that war against the Kingdom of God?
2. We can be lost in a fog that weighs us down, clouds our vision and dulls our joy. Of the fogs of fear and worry, anger and hatred, religious confusion, or faulty worldview, which is impacting you the most? Discuss.
3. Which of the spiritual defoggers mentioned in the sermon [the bright light of Scripture, the treasure of prayer, the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit, the clarity other Christians bring, or the Beacon of Hope (Jesus)] has been the biggest help to you in 2020 to cut through the confusion of this world? During the sermon, which one did God place on your heart to embrace more deeply in the weeks to come?
4. How many times this week did you read scripture? How did it help you?
5. Are you tapping into the treasure chest of prayer? How do you pray (time of day, place, position, duration, pattern)? Discuss?
6. What have you asked the Holy Spirit to help you with this week? (Romans 8:26)
7. Read Colossians 3:2, 2 Corinthians 10:5, and Philippians 4:8. When things seem foggy, what do these verses say we should do with our minds?
8. Pastor Dave mentioned in the sermon that we all have blind spots and need guidance at times. Share a time when a Christian friend gave you some Godly advice or helped you see something in a Christ-like perspective. When have you been enabled by the Spirit to help a friend in the same way?
9. Have you surrendered yourself to Jesus (our beacon of hope)?

TAKEAWAY

- Just because someone lives the Christian life badly doesn't mean that Jesus isn't worth following.
- Bob Russell
- When everyone makes up their own rules it leads to chaos. Every day I need to ask, "Am I in charge or is God?"
- Controlling our thoughts isn't mainly about determination; it's about surrender.
- Spiritual De-foggers provided by the Lord:
 - The bright light of Scripture to guide us.
Psalm 119:105
 - The treasure of prayer to refresh us.
Matthew 13:44-46, 52
 - The fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to indwell us.
Acts 2:38; Romans 8:26; Colossians 3:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8
 - The clarity other Christians bring to encourage us.
Proverbs 12:15
 - The Beacon of Hope (Jesus has already conquered the world) to save us.
Isaiah 49:15-16

REFERENCES

Judges 21:25	Matthew 4:17; 6:33; 12:34-35; 22:35-40	John 3:5, 8; 14:15-17; 26
1 Corinthians 13:12; 14:33	Ephesians 6:17	Colossians 1:12-13
2 Timothy 3:16	James 5:16b	1 John 1:9

DIGGING DEEPER

- How does our living in confusion and chaos as a Christian hurt our ability to help draw others to Christ? How could more fully embracing each of the de-foggers mentioned in the sermon be used in bringing others to Christ?
- Who do you know that needs to hear the truth and hope in this sermon? How will you share it with them?