

RESPONSE

WEEK 2 I Am Valued

ICEBREAKER

What one item do you own that you value above its actual worth and tell why you hold such a high value to the item.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **1 Samuel 1:1-3**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

"There was a man named Elkanah who lived in Ramah in the region of Zuph in the hill country of Ephraim. He was the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, of Ephraim." — 1 Samuel 1:1-2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Samuel 1 sets the stage for the insignificant to become significant. Throughout God's Word we see this pattern repeated with others.

What is God revealing about His character when He selects the insignificant for His purposes?

- Value is based on two things: what someone is willing to pay for it and who owns it.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:23

Read Galatians 3:13-14

"Jesus dying on the Cross isn't just the revelation of my sin. It is a revelation of my value." — Todd White

Knowing something and believing it out are two different things. We just read about the value God has for us - how could and should we live our lives differently knowing and believing He values us?

- *"I would feel value except I have a past."* We remind ourselves of our past mistakes, regrets and sins which prevent us from feeling any value - especially to God (or so we think).

What steps should we take as followers of Jesus to get over the hurdles of reminding ourselves or being reminded of our past so that we can move forward with God plans and purposes in our lives?

Do you have a personal verse that helps remind you?

- The Bible is full of people being used by God.

Whose story has inspired you and is their past perfect?

- *"I would feel value except I am not perfect."* No one is perfect and yet this is a stumbling block for many. We grow from weaknesses - not strength.

Speaking of being vulnerable, has there been a time in your life that Jesus revealed to you that you needed to be transparent about a situation?

What struggles did you encounter while being obedient?

What was the final outcome of your being obedient in being transparent, open and honest with yourself and with others regarding the situation?

- *"I would feel value except I have a predicament."* We live in a world where someone has rearranged the price tags as mentioned in the illustration by philosopher Kierkegaard.

What are some of the ways the world seeks to determine our value?

What are some of the ways God shows us our real value?

- **Read Ephesians 2:10**

When you read this verse, what do you hear God speaking to you through His Words?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

If you have time feel free to use these questions during your small group session. Otherwise take time this week and reflect on the following two questions and write in your journal what you are hearing from God.

What is Jesus saying? Where is He asking you to trust Him? Where is He encouraging you these days? Where are you feeling His love in your life? What areas in your life style and a habits is He speaking to you about changing?

What am I doing in RESPONSE?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Turn off your cell. Get away from the TV. Close the laptop. Make some quiet time happen for yourself and in that quiet time ask God, "What do you like about me?" and wait to hear what the Holy Spirit reveals to you. Write down in your journal what you are hearing from God. Next, ask, "What do you see when you see me?", and do the same. Do not rush through this quiet time - be sure to thank God for revealing what He does to you.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS