

Small Group Study Guide



Audience of One Sept 22, 2019

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for the opportunities you bring our way. And Father, most of us are so spoiled with influence, opportunities, things and stuff. But none of us will ever be happy with what we have, we will always want more. Our appetite is never fulfilled. So help us remember that whatever we have comes from you and we are accountable to you. We want to be known for making you known. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

John 3:26-31

26 They came to John and said, “Rabbi, look! The man who was with you across the Jordan, the one about whom you testified, is baptizing and everyone is flocking to him.” 27 John replied, “No one can receive anything unless it is given from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said that I’m not the Christ but that I’m the one sent before him. 29 The groom is the one who is getting married. The friend of the groom stands close by and, when he hears him, is overjoyed at the groom’s voice. Therefore, my joy is now complete. 30 He must increase and I must decrease. 31 The one who comes from above is above all things. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all things.



INTRODUCTION

We all want to be friended, followed, linked, and mentioned. We all want to be recognized, admired, sought after, and envied. We hunger for approval. We want applause. We want to be known. But what do you do when there is no amount of “known” that will satisfy your appetite?

Work hard. Hone your craft. Broaden your influence. Build your career. Write great books. Move mountains. Change lives. But in the end, remember who it’s from and who it’s for. The applause of the One who knew you first, who knows you best, who gifted you and called you is the only applause that will matter. Your heavenly Father is the One you want to hear say, “Well done.”

QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some ways the appetite for being known is reflected in our cultural values?
- 2) At the end of your life, what would you most like to be known for? Why do you want to be known for that thing?
- 3) Read John 3:26–31 on page 1. In what ways do you need to “become less” so Jesus can “become greater” in your life? What are some obstacles to that happening?
- 4) From what audience do you most hunger for applause—your friends, your spouse, your children, your parents, your boss, your peers? How does that hunger drive your behavior and decision making?
- 5) What blocks gratitude in your life? What can you do to be more grateful and less prideful about what you have?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to stop seeking the applause of other people and begin to listen to the applause of your heavenly Father? How can this group help you follow through?