



“Look” | Numbers 21:4-9 | March 29, 2009

1. C. S. Lewis said, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world” (*The Problem of Pain*). To what extent do you believe that this is true? Why do you think that God works this way?
2. What are the deep needs that we all have that are being exposed in this global recession?
3. Pastor Earl said that God meets our deepest needs through Jesus. Rehearse the above list of deep needs and discuss the answer to, “How does Jesus meet those needs?”

Leader Hints:

- *At this point, you can bring in the stories and verses that we looked at during the sermon.*
 - *John 6:35—Jesus is talking about the deep need of being fulfilled and satisfied. Mick Jagger (Rolling Stones) might think that he “can’t get no satisfaction,” but Jesus says, “I am the bread (manna) of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”*
 - *John 3:14-15—Jesus says, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” Eternal life is not just referring to quantity (life forever) but also quality (see John 17:3—knowing God, experiencing him, a relationship with him).*
 - *2 Corinthians 5:21—Because Jesus becomes sin for us, we become the righteousness of God.*
4. God graciously meets our deepest needs through Jesus. The question is, “Are we looking to, coming to, and believing in Jesus to meet those deepest needs?”
 - Why do you think that some people tend to believe in “Jesus plus” for the meeting of their deepest needs?
 - How would you know whether you were “looking to, coming to, and believing in” Jesus alone OR “Jesus plus” to meet your deepest needs?
 5. End your time either reciting or reading together Psalm 23.

Leader Hints:

 - *This is such a familiar psalm that at times we miss the impact of the words. In many ways, this psalm talks about how God (Jesus) meets our deepest needs.*
 - *Note the emphasis on what God does for us and how when we seek out Jesus alone, we can respond in uncommon ways even in the midst of life’s most difficult moments.*