**Growth Group Bible Study**

“Encountering Jesus”

Encountering the Light

Lesson 10

March 11, 2018

**Reading** John 13:18-30

**Opening Questions**

1. What is your least favorite household chore and why?

2. Have you ever gotten ready for the day without taking a good look at yourself, only to be embarrassed later on when you realized something was wrong with your appearance?

**Study**

1. Read John 1:1-5. What does it mean that Jesus is “the Light of men,” and what does it mean that “the darkness did not comprehend it”?

2. What is the context of John 13:18-30? What happens before and after this scene here?

3. Why is it significant that Judas is laying down close enough to Jesus that He is able to pass him a piece of food to eat? How does this make his betrayal even worse?

4. Browse through the book of John up to this point. What has Jesus revealed about Himself to the disciples up to this point?

5. What expectations might Judas have had for Jesus? How might those have gotten in the way of accepting who Jesus actually said He was?

6. What ‘alternate views’ of Jesus are present today that contradict with the Jesus presented in the Bible?

7. What does Jesus teach us about the truly blessed life? (cf. Matt. 5:3-11;

 25:34-36; Luke 11:27-28; 14:13-14; John 13:14-17). How is this different than the life we typically think of as blessed?

8. What patterns had Judas exhibited in his life that led up to the point where he betrayed Jesus? (cf. John 12:4-6; Matt. 26:14-16). What was going on in his soul?

9. How do the actions of Judas seem to contrast with the actions of Peter, who also betrayed Jesus but ended up becoming a pillar of the early church? Why do you think they ended up in such different places?

10. How did Jesus shine a light on peoples’ souls throughout his ministry on earth? What seems to characterize the type of people who are able to respond positively to Him?

11. Why is it necessary to come to grips with the state of our souls before we can begin to walk with Jesus in the light?

**Application**

1. Do you ever tend to treat Jesus as somebody different than who He says He is

 in the Bible? (For example, treating His teachings as more like ‘advice’ than something that must be obeyed). Why do we do that? What would it look like to live as if we truly believed Jesus is all that He says He is, instead of living as if Jesus is whoever we want Him to be?

2. Based on how you spend your time and money and energy, what seems to be the ‘blessed life’ that you are pursuing? What could change to help you start pursuing Jesus’ version of the ‘blessed life’?

3. Spend time thanking God for not only helping you see your true (ugly) self, but giving you a new self based on Jesus living in you.