

DCCYC 2020 Sr. High Messages

- Theme: Vision 20/20
 - Matthew 6:22 - ²² *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light..*

Theme – 20/20 Vision

Every session, we will first see a man or woman in Christian history who faced persecution and difficulty but remained faithful to following God, they were people who had 20/20 vision! We will start our first session with the gospel, the most important and foundation of the Christian faith. We cannot have 20/20 vision unless we know the gospel clearly. We will then spend the next 4 sessions on spiritual disciplines, specific ways that we can see God with 20/20 vision and more clarity in our lives. These disciplines take on added importance during this new normal of quarantine and staying at home as well as to see the issues in our society in a biblical and God-centered way. Finally, we will end our last session by asking God to fully open our eyes with 20/20 vision and see that Jesus Christ is our greatest joy and will give us the most satisfaction and purpose in our life!

Discussion Questions

1. **The Gospel: The First Step in Seeing 20/20** (Thursday Morning)
 - What is something you learned about Martin Luther that can inspire you in your spiritual walk to have 20/20 vision?
 - Share the Gospel points again with your group.
 - What does the gospel mean to you?
 - How does knowing the gospel change the way you view your life?
 - How should the gospel frame the way we interact with the topics and issues in our society today?

2. **Spiritual Disciplines for 20/20 Vision: – Bible Reading** (Thursday Night)
 - What is something you learned about John Bunyan that can inspire you in your spiritual walk to have 20/20 vision?
 - Look up and read these verses together as a group: Psalm 119:18, 105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Joshua 1:8; James 1:22; 2 Timothy 2:15
 - What do you spend the most time on when at home? (The things we spend the most time on will affect our behaviors and beliefs the most) Why is spending time in God’s Word so important for us to have proper 20/20 vision?
 - What are some steps you can take to be more disciplined in your Bible reading? Be specific.
 - Commit to the plan you came up with in the previous question and have your counselor and the members of your group to commit to helping each other follow through.
 - How can we have a more biblical perspective informing the way we view and interact with the issues in our society today?

3. **Spiritual Disciplines for 20/20 Vision: – Prayer** (Friday Morning)

- What is something you learned about John Newton that can inspire you in your spiritual walk to have 20/20 vision?
- Look up and read these verses together as a group: Psalm 4:1; 1 John 5:14-15; Ephesians 6:18 Matthew 5:44; Matthew 6:9-13
- Honestly discuss with your group how much you pray, what you believe about prayer, and how your actions reveal what your beliefs are.
- Why is prayer so important and necessary in a believer's life?
- What are some steps you can take to be more disciplined in your prayer life? Be specific.
 - Commit to the plan you came up with in the previous question and have your counselor and the members of your group to commit to helping each other follow through.
- What is the role and importance of prayer in helping transform our society? What can you do?

4. **Spiritual Disciplines for 20/20 Vision: – Fellowship & Community** (Friday Night)

- What is something you learned about Corrie Ten Boom that can inspire you in your spiritual walk to have 20/20 vision?
- Look up and read these verses together as a group: Hebrews 10:24-25; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Matthew 18:20; 1 Corinthians 12:25-27; Proverbs 27:17
- Discuss in your groups your involvement with community at your local church, how has that changed since COVID and quarantine? Better or worse?
- How well do you follow God and maintain spiritual disciplines on your own? What does this tell you?
- What are some steps you can take to have a Christian community and be more involved with fellowship? Be specific.
 - Commit to the plan you came up with in the previous question and have your counselor and the members of your group to commit to helping each other follow through.
- How does having a biblical and solid Christian community help us in the way we view society and the issues that are going on in our culture? What should that lead to?

5. **Spiritual Disciplines for 20/20 Vision: – Personally for You** (Saturday Morning)

- What is something you learned about Dietrich Bonhoeffer that can inspire you in your spiritual walk to have 20/20 vision?
- Which of the other spiritual disciplines mentioned stood out to you? Why?
- There is not a set list of spiritual disciplines, there is creativity involved. What is something personally in your experience that you do that brings you closer to God and helps your spiritual walk?

- Pick a spiritual discipline that you can start doing consistently. Make a specific plan for how you can do it.
- Pick one of the books that were presented and commit to reading it before the summer is over.
- Commit to the plan you came up with in the previous question and have your counselor and the members of your group to commit to helping each other follow through.

6. **True 20/20 Vision: Seeing Jesus as Your Greatest Joy** (Saturday Night)

- What is something you learned about Elizabeth Eliot that can inspire you in your spiritual walk to have 20/20 vision?
- Look up and read Matthew 13:44. Reflect on this verse. With what attitude did the man sell all that he had? (With joy!)
- What brings you the most happiness in life? What gets you the most excited? How does knowing that following Jesus is what is best for you change the way you view the Christian walk?
- Commitment:
 - Have you committed your life to trust in and follow Jesus Christ? If not, will you do so?
 - If you have already committed your life to Jesus, will you recommit to a life of discipleship seeking to see him with 20/20 vision and follow him in all things?
 - Share and celebrate with your group about the commitments that have been made.
- Review the specific applications you have made during the week regarding Bible reading, prayer, community, and other disciplines. Recommit a final time with your counselor and group members to follow through.

Note on justice:

The last question of each discussion is geared toward justice and many of the events that have been going on in our nation. These are issues that must be addressed in the church and as counselors your responsibility is to help your campers discuss and view these issues in a biblical and God-centered way. Here are some Bible verses that you all should keep in mind and can be helpful to share:

I would also encourage you all to personally take some time yourselves and prayerfully read through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.

- Psalm 33:5
 - The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- Psalm 72:12-14

- For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
- ¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
- ¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.
- Proverbs 14:34
 - Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin condemns any people.
- Proverbs 29:2
 - When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;
when the wicked rule, the people groan.
- Proverbs 31:8-9
 - Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
 - ⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.
- Jeremiah 29:7
 - Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into
exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper
- Amos 5:24
 - But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!
- Micah 6:8
 - He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
- Habakkuk 1:2-4
 - How long, LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, “Violence!”
but you do not save?
 - ³ Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
 - ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

- Zechariah 7:9-10
 - “This is what the LORD Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. ¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’
- Matthew 5:43-45
 - ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- Matthew 10:16
 - ¹⁶“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.
- Matthew 22:37-40
 - ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
- Luke 4:18-19
 - “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
- Luke 6:31
 - ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- Luke 10:29-37
 - ²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”
³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’

he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- Galatians 5:22-23
 - ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- Romans 10:12
 - ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,
- Romans 12:15-19
 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.
- Romans 12:21
 - ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- Romans 13:1-5
 - Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2
 - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.
- James 2:8-9
 - ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

- 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.
- 1 John 3:17
 - ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?