



7: The Big What?

Episode Notes

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. In this episode, I interview Pastor Brian Spahr from Come2Go Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We discuss the importance of listening and responding to God's voice. We are to follow God in obedience by responding to the grace He gives us. Responding to God should take us from a place of hearing God and then move us to a place of application and transformation. Jesus often asked questions to get people to think on a deeper level than just giving answers. After hearing God's Word read either individually or as a church, ask yourself these two important questions: What is God saying? What are you going to do about it (how is calling you to respond to His grace)? Answering these two questions will help you discern how God is calling you to obey Him.

Interview with Brian Spahr:

1. What does it mean to respond to God's grace?

It starts by settling ourselves and unplugging from our busy world to listen to God's voice. God invites people into His presence where He speaks. We respond by participating with God, not just for God.

2. Find the Good News.

We have Good News (Mark 1:15). When hearing God's Word, look for the Good News that God is speaking to you. God parents us and disciplines us. He wants to walk with us and be a part of our life. Look for how God continually invites us into relationship (repent and believe). Examine your intuition, and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and discernment. Good News is different for different people and contexts.

3. God is both Savior and Lord.

Responding to God means letting God rule in our lives in this life. Faith is more than eternal salvation. Our continuous response to God makes us into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). God is for this life and the next.

4. How do I lead others in responding to God?

Lead from authenticity. Don't just give people a prescription, but lead from a place of vulnerability and honesty, in a way that is appropriate for your context. Responding together is a journey of deep relationship. Give examples to others of how you have responded to God to encourage others to think and reflect.

5. Practical ways to respond in a small church setting

1. Prayer is always an important part of responding to God. After reading and discussing the Bible together for one another, you can pray in groups of two or three or lay on hands with people in the middle. Say the Lord's Prayer together. Try different ways to engage people in prayer.
2. Have a quiet time to journal or reflect.
3. Take communion together. Use what works for your context.

Discussion Questions

1. What has God been saying to me recently? In what ways have I responded to His voice? Where have I failed to be obedient?
2. What are different ways our church responds after the sermon (communion, prayer, altar calls)?
3. What are appropriate ways to respond in my small church setting (prayer, communion, journaling, sticky notes, etc.)?

I want to hear from you! Don't forget to e-mail your questions, comments, and testimonies at jonhunter@churchdoctor.org. Check out thesendmovement.com to apply for discipleship training for SEND Young Adults (18-29) or SEND+ (29+) or for coaching opportunities.

Resources:

Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Calhoun
The Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster
Simply Good News by N.T. Wright