

Jesus & the Selfless Life

Small Group Discussion Questions

PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship in-person with restrictions or online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning via our Grantham Church YouTube Channel. For more information, please go to the [Grantham Church Live](#) page at our website.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, June 6th 2021



Sermon Title: Jesus & the Selfless Life

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:34-35; 10:35-45; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:3-11

Sermon Focus: There are historical reasons why Americans have become so hyper-individualized and self-absorbed today, but knowing how we've arrived at this place is not enough to get off the "selfie" path. We must receive the good news that Jesus offers us a new identity and shows us the way to true peace, joy, and freedom. Listen as Pastor David shares how the church can embody real change through selfless living.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began with the Greek tragedy of Narcissus, who stared at himself in a pool of water until he died. The limerick says, "There was once a nymph named Narcissus, who thought himself very delicious; so he stared like a fool, at his face in a pool, and his folly today is still with us." How do you see the folly still with us today in American society? Give various specific examples.
2. Ancient Greece (2,500 years ago) introduced the world to *individualism*, where all previous societies were collective—i.e., you can only understand yourself in connection to the whole group. We are now seeing this individualism run amok in Western culture. Why is this harmful to our own souls *and* our society? Also, how does this hyper-individualism threaten the communal life of the church? Give examples of how you see this negatively impacting our congregation.
3. In Mark 10:35-45, two disciples make a special request that revealed they were only thinking of themselves and not understanding that the Kingdom is about self-giving love, and that the Son of Man's power looks like servant leadership, as it should be with all disciples. While it's not in our "nature" to live this way, Jesus is calling us to transcend or evolve into selfless living through the power of the Holy Spirit. Does it help you to think of it this way?
4. Jesus said that we must "deny ourselves" (Mark 8:34-35) if we're going to follow him in the way of cross-bearing and selfless living. Are there areas in your life where you see that you need to "deny" your flesh more? Be brave and share this with your group. Pray for these things at the end of your time together.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-4 and Galatians 2:20 together. Paul seems to have finally arrived at a place where his identity was firmly rooted in Christ. Do you believe this is possible in your life? What are the biggest hurdles you need God's help with in overcoming your old self? How can members of your group support you?
6. Pastor David said that our ego is fragile, and we must constantly inflate it by comparing ourselves to others, judging others, boasting in (or putting down) our own goodness, etc. This is exhausting! Thankfully, Jesus is showing us a way off this crazy train. What might this look like practically in everyday life? What does it look like to root your identity in Jesus and live a selfless life?