

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 4.11.2024 AND 4.14.2024

MATTHEW 22:34-40 & 1 JOHN 3:16-19 (NIV)

OTHER TEXT(S): 1 JOHN 3:1-3, LEVITICUS 25:1-13, LEVITICUS 25:35-43

- How does recognizing ourselves as beloved children of God, as described in 1 John 3:2, shape our understanding of God's love for us?
- Read 1 John 3:16–23, how can we effectively demonstrate love for others within our church community?
- What does the world celebrate?
- What does God celebrate?
- Why should we celebrate rest? (Leviticus 25:1–7) Is the sabbath built in your life rhythm?
- Why should we celebrate freedom? (Leviticus 25:8–13) Reference your calendar. Is God the God of your time?
- Why should we celebrate the disadvantaged? (Leviticus 25:35–43)
- How can you practice being more present with God and delighting in Him?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 4.4.2024 AND 3.31.2024

READ LEVITICUS 25:1-13

OTHER TEXT(S): LEVITICUS 25:35-43, 47-55 AND LUKE 4:14-19

- What do you love to celebrate?
- Are all celebrations of God?
- What does the world celebrate?
- What does God celebrate?
- Why should we celebrate rest? (Leviticus 25:1-7) Is the sabbath built in your life rhythm?
- Why should we celebrate freedom? (Leviticus 25:8-13) Reference your calendar. Is God the God of your time?
- Why should we celebrate the disadvantaged? (Leviticus 25:35-43)
- How can you practice being more present with God and delighting in Him?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.





RESTORED: HOW A SHAKING LEADS TO OUR SALVATION



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 3.28 AND 3.31.2024

READ LUKE 23:44, 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 50-58, MATTHEW 27: 45-54

OTHER TEXT(S): MATTHEW 28: 1-8

- Why did Jesus die? What can we learn from his death? (Luke 23:44)
- What is the significance of the tearing of the temple veil? (Matthew 27: 45-54, 28:1-8)
- What do we need to separate from to restore our intimacy with God?
- Why is Christ's resurrection important?
- By Christ defeating death, we get a sneak preview of our participation in the resurrection. What keeps people from saying yes to new life?
- At the tomb, did the stone need to be rolled away so that Jesus could go out or so that we could get in?
- In a world that needs restoration, who can you share the Good News to this week?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.

Icebreakers, Groups Support, FAQ





A TALE OF TWO GARDENS

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 3.21 AND 3.24.2024

READ MATTHEW 26:17-30, 36-46, AND JOHN 18:2-6.

OTHER TEXT(S): GENESIS 3:1-11, MATTHEW 26:36-46, REVELATION 21:1-5 AND MATTHEW 28:18-20

- How do you prepare for something (i.e. a difficult conversation, a competition, work-related matters, relationships, etc.)? Why can it be a struggle to do what we know needs to be done?
- What can we learn from Jesus on the Mount of Olives about preparing for life's battles?
- How can you grow through obedience? (Matthew 26:17-30)
 - Why did Jesus choose Judas if He knew he would betray Him?
- How can you grow through prayer? (Matthew 26:36-46)
- How can you grow through perseverance? (John 18:2-6)
- Take a moment to pause and listen to God. Which areas of growth do you need to focus on? What adjustments can you make this week to apply what you just learned?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.

Icebreakers, Groups Support, FAQ





A TALE OF TWO GARDENS

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 3.14 AND 3.17.2024

READ GENESIS 1:24-30

OTHER TEXT(S): GENESIS 3:1-11, MATTHEW 26:36-46, REVELATION 21:1-5 AND MATTHEW 28:18-20

- Share about a time when you wanted something, but God showed you what you needed.
- In Genesis 1:24-30, what was given?
- In Genesis 3:1-11, what was lost?
- In Matthew 26:36-46, what was restored?
- What are some things in your life that you were given, you had lost, and God has restored? Why is this important?
- What is expected of the Church while we wait on the return of Christ? How will you model that this week?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 3/7 AND 3/10 2024

JOHN 4:4-14

Other text(s) to consider: John 4:15-53

- What does it mean to serve others with hospitality as a reflection of God's image?
- Does your life usher people closer to God? How can we rethink hospitality by seeing ourselves as servants?
- When God calls you to do something uncomfortable, how do you typically respond? We see Jesus go to places and people that others avoid – what can we learn from this?
- Where is your Samaria?
- Share personal experiences of how following Jesus has brought transformation to you or those around you.

Closing thought: Follow Jesus and you'll never be the same!

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | 2/29 AND 3/3, 2024

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

Other text(s) to consider: Galatians 6:7-10

- Why become a Christian? Is it because: your family is Christian? That's what you're supposed to do if you go to church? Are you scared of death? Are you scared of hell?
- Does who you say you are align with what you do? What does your life preach?
- What does it really mean to be a disciple of Jesus? Does your life present God's love and truth?
- Who is discipling you?
- Who are you discipling?

Closing thought: The Christian life is not easy, but commit to it and find your calling. Someone else's life needs the witness your purpose-filled life.

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



**DON'T GIVE,
UP HOPE**
JUST GIVE UP

HOPE
WHEN YOU WANT TO
QUIT ON GOD

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | FEB. 8 & 11, 2024

GALATIANS 2:19-21

Other text(s) to consider: Galatians 3:10-13, Isaiah 40:30-31, 1 John 3:1-3, and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- Are you typically a rule follower or do you tend to bend rules?
- There's the rule and the spirit of the rule – what's the difference?
- What is the purpose of the law? Can the law save us?
- Read Isaiah 40:30-31, 1 John 3:1-3. Where can we find Hope?
- What do you need to give up or let go of in order to sustain and grow hope in Christ? Reference Galatians 2:19-21.

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | FEB. 8 & 11, 2024

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Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



DON'T GIVE UP HOPE:

HOPE AFTER FAILURE

HOPE
WHEN YOU WANT TO
QUIT ON GOD

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | FEB. 15 & 18, 2024

LUKE 22:31-34, JOHN 21:15-19

Other text(s) to consider: Luke 5:1-11, John 21:1-14

- Do you love God? Pause and let this question marinate.
- Do you love God more than your family, job, possessions, [fill in the blank]? How does your life reflect your love for God?
- Why does Jesus ask Peter if he loves Him 3 times? Was it to shame Peter?
- Like Peter, have you "denied" Jesus? Share.
- What encouragement can we take away from Peter?

Closing thought: "May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope." - Romans 15:13

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



DON'T GIVE UP HOPE:

HOPE
WHEN YOU WANT TO
QUIT ON GOD

HOPING FOR THE BEST: AND NOT SETTLING FOR LESS"

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | FEB. 22 & 25, 2024

PSALM 42:1-11

Other text(s) to consider: Psalm 62:5-8

- Share a time in your life when desperation led you to do something as a last resort.
- When going through a crisis, has God forgotten about you? Explain.
- What is Biblical Hope? Read Hebrews 11:1.
- What are things you tend to put your hope in other than God?
- Psalm 42 encourages us to discover God in our desperation (v.1-5), to remember that He lifts us up when we're down (v.6-8), and to receive His presence when feel alone (v.9-11). How will you apply what you've learned this week?

Closing thought: When you've tried everything else, rest in Him. Read Psalm 62:5-8.

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



FINANCIAL REVOLUTION

MANAGING TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

NEW
YEAR'S
REVOLUTION
BEYOND A TEMPORARY RESOLUTION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | JAN. 25 & 28, 2024

MATTHEW 25:14-18

Other text(s) to consider: 1 Timothy 6:17-18

- How does recognizing that everything belongs to God impact how we manage our resources?
- How does the parable stress that our time, talent, and treasure are not just for us but for blessing others?
- How does the parable and the additional verse show God's concern for the poor, needy, and oppressed, and how should our stewardship reflect this?
- How does the idea of generosity in 1 Timothy 6:17-18 connect to the revolutionary way we manage our time, talent, and treasure according to God's principles?
- How does trusting in God contribute to financial freedom instead of enslavement?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



HEALTH REVOLUTION

LIFE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

NEW
YEAR'S
REVOLUTION
BEYOND A TEMPORARY RESOLUTION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | JAN. 18 & 21, 2024

PROVERBS 3:1-8

Other text(s) to consider: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

- How does what you believe impact our overall well-being, both spiritually and physically?
- What does it mean to surrender your heart, mind, and body to God, and how does this relate to being God's temple?
- How can your past, present, and future perspectives influence our health, and what role does biblical wisdom play?
- How can you practically integrate faith into our daily lives for sustained well-being?
- Reflect: "What if your outside looked like your Inside?" How can we align our actions with our beliefs?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



RELATIONSHIP REVOLUTION

REIMAGINING CONNECTION & COMMUNITY

NEW
YEAR'S
REVOLUTION
BEYOND A TEMPORARY RESOLUTION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | JAN. 4 & 7, 2024

MATTHEW 22:34-40

Other texts to consider: Luke 10:38-42, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the health of your relationships?
- In your past bad relationships, what seems to be the common factor? What aspect of yourself do you think needs improvement to enhance your relationships?
- According to Matthew 22, what is the first and greatest commandment, and do you prioritize loving God?
- How do you interpret the quote, "The problem with a compromised relationship is that most people in them are committed to the concept of relationship more than they are committed to the other person" by Bob Balian?
- Reflecting on Tyronne Gross's quote, "If we love God most, we will love others best," do you feel you love God most, and how does that impact your relationships?
- Do you love yourself well? How can you love yourself better?
- Do you put conditions on your love for God, others, and yourself? How can we go from conditional love to unconditional love?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.



EVERYTHING BELIEVED:

From Frustration to Faith

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | DEC. 17, 2023

HEBREWS 10:39 - 11:3 (NIV)

FOR MORE CONTEXT YOU CAN READ: HEBREWS 11:8-19 AND 12:1-3

- WHAT CAUSES YOU TO BE FRUSTRATED? WHY?
- WHAT DOES FAITH MEAN?
- WHO OR WHAT DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN?
- DOES YOUR FAITH LEAD TO OBEDIENCE? DO YOU STILL HAVE FAITH EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT?
- WHEN GOD TESTS OUR FAITH IS IT FOR OUR PUNISHMENT OR DEVELOPMENT?
- REFLECT ON THE PAST: MONTH, YEAR, 10 YEARS, ETC. HOW HAS GOD COME THROUGH IN YOUR LIFE? TAKE TIME TO SHARE AND REMEMBER HIS FAITHFULNESS.

LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER



EVERYTHING BROKEN:

How Life Gets Better

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | DEC. 10, 2023

HEBREWS 4:12-13 (NIV)

- IN YOUR CURRENT SEASON OF LIFE, HOW ARE YOU EXPERIENCING BROKENNESS?
- HOW CAN THE LIVING AND POWERFUL WORD OF GOD BRING HEALING TO BROKEN AREAS IN OUR LIVES?
- HOW DOES THE TRUTH THAT NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM GOD IMPACT OUR APPROACH TO HANDLING BROKENNESS?
- DOES BEING RESPONSIBLE TO GOD CHANGE HOW WE DEAL WITH OUR PROBLEMS AND MISTAKES?
- HOW CAN BELIEVERS PRACTICALLY USE GOD'S WORD WHEN THINGS ARE TOUGH OR NOT GOING WELL EVERY DAY?

LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER



EVERYTHING PROMISED:

Dealing with Disappointment

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | DEC. 3, 2023

ISAIAH 41:10 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20-22

FOR MORE CONTEXT YOU CAN READ:
NUMBERS 20:2-12, HEBREWS 10:19-25, ACTS 2:32-39, 1 KINGS 8:12-20,
2 PETER 3:9, 2 PETER 1:1-8

- HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN PEOPLE BREAK A PROMISE TO YOU? HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU BREAK A PROMISE TO SOMEONE ELSE?
- WHY MAKE PROMISES IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY WE MAY NOT KEEP THEM?
- WHY DOES GOD MAKE PROMISES...WHAT'S THE POINT?
- WHAT ARE GOD'S PROMISES TO US?
- WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM DIVINE DISAPPOINTMENTS?

LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER





THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS WHILE THE ENEMY PREYS

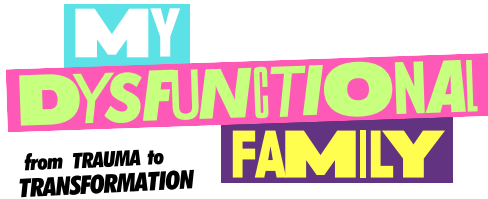
SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | NOV. 26, 2023

READ MATTHEW 6:5-13 & EPHESIANS 6:10-18

FOR MORE CONTEXT YOU CAN READ:
ROMANS 8:22-27, ACTS 2:42-47, AND PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

- HOW DOES THE ENEMY PREY?
- WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HOW JESUS PRAYS?
- WHY IS PRAYER IMPORTANT?
- DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE SHOW TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON GOD? DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE SHOW TOTAL DEVOTION TO GOD?
- HOW CAN YOU BUILD A BETTER RHYTHM OF PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE?
- LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.





THE (CHURCH) FAMILY THAT GIVES

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | NOV. 19, 2023

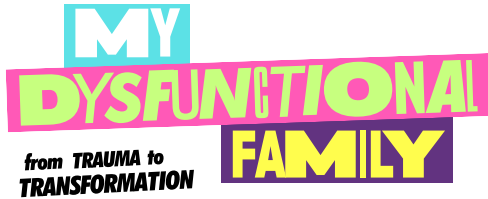
READ PSALM 112:1-9

FOR MORE CONTEXT YOU CAN READ:

PSALM 9:7-12, 16-18; PSALM 15:1-5; PSALM 33:1-5; PSALM 62:1-8; HEBREWS 12:1-2

- IS IT TRULY BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE? SHARE A TIME WHEN SOMEONE'S GENEROSITY INSPIRED YOU TO BE GENEROUS.
- WHY CAN IT BE HARD TO GIVE?
- WE ALL GIVE TO SOMETHING. WHAT DO YOU GIVE YOUR TIME TO? WHAT DO YOU GIVE YOUR MONEY TO?
- HOW CAN WE SHIFT FROM GIVING FOR PERSONAL GAIN TO GIVING TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY?
- TELL A STORY ABOUT A TIME GOD BLESSED YOU. TAKE A MINUTE TO PAUSE AND CONSIDER THIS: CAN WE EVER OUT-GIVE GOD?
- HOW CAN WE DEVELOP HEALTHY RHYTHMS OF GIVING THAT ALIGNS WITH GOD'S GENEROSITY?
- LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.





THE (CHURCH) FAMILY THAT SERVES

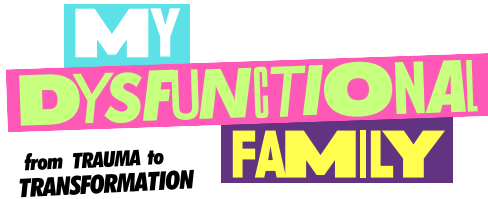
SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | NOV. 12, 2023

**READ ROMANS 12:3-8 AND
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18**

- WHAT DOES BEING PART OF A "SERVING FAMILY" WITHIN A CHURCH COMMUNITY MEAN?
- DO YOU EVER SERVE SOMEONE ELSE TO RECEIVE ANYTHING IN RETURN? WHY? HOW DOES PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4 ENCOURAGE PRIORITIZING OTHERS?
- HOW DOES SERVING CONNECT TO UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE?
- WHAT ARE YOU SACRIFICING IN SERVICE TO GOD AND GOD'S FAMILY?
- IN A FAMILY, EVERYONE PLAYS THEIR PART. WHAT IS YOUR PART IN THE FAMILY AND HOW CAN YOU FOSTER A CULTURE OF SERVICE IN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.





THE CHURCH AS FAMILY

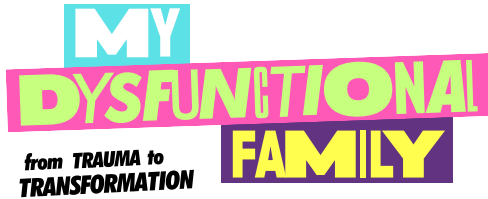
SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | NOV. 5, 2023

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12-13:13

- IS CHURCH REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE FAMILY?
- WHAT DOES IT REALLY LOOK LIKE TO BE THE FAMILY OF GOD?
- HOW HAS THE CHURCH BEEN YOUR FAMILY?
- HOW CAN YOU BE MORE INTENTIONAL ABOUT KNOWING, SERVING, AND LOVING YOUR FAMILY?

SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.





STORM-PROOFING THE FAMILY: RESOLVING CONFLICT RESPECTFULLY

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | OCT. 29, 2023

JAMES 4:1-12 & JAMES 1:2-8

- HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR LIFE'S STORMS AND APPLY THIS PREPARATION TO OUR FAMILIES?
- HOW CAN JAMES' INSIGHTS FROM GROWING UP WITH JESUS HELP US RESOLVE FAMILY CONFLICTS?
- DOES GOD CREATE CONFLICTS IN FAMILIES ACCORDING TO JAMES 4:1-12?
- HOW DOES EMBRACING HUMILITY IMPACT OUR ABILITY TO RESOLVE FAMILY CONFLICTS IN A WAY THAT HONORS GOD, AS ADVISED IN JAMES 4:6-10?
- CAN YOU SHARE EXAMPLES FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES WHERE INVITING GOD INTO FAMILY STORMS LED TO HEALING, RECONCILIATION, AND RESOLUTION?
- SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR FAMILIES AND PRAY TOGETHER.



SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | OCT. 15, 2023

GENESIS 37:1-28

FOR MORE CONTEXT YOU CAN READ:
GENESIS 39:20-23, 41:51-52; 43:26-31, 45:1-8, 46:1-4.

- HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HURT BY YOUR FAMILY?

- TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON YOUR OWN FAMILY HURTS, IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING.

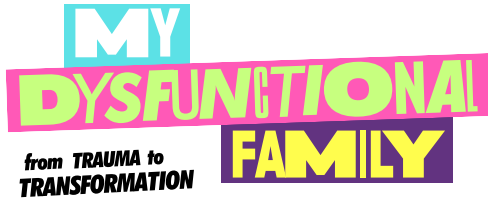
- REFERRING TO GENESIS 37:2-11, JOSEPH HAD HIS OWN FLAWS. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN FAMILY CONFLICTS? HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO HEALING?

- WHO DO YOU NEED TO FORGIVE IN YOUR FAMILY?

- WHAT NEW BEGINNINGS CAN YOU FIND IN YOUR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS?

LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.





TRUSTING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR IMPERFECT FAMILIES

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | OCT. 8, 2023

GENESIS 12:1-9

FOR MORE CONTEXT YOU CAN READ GENESIS 11:1-9, 27-32

- WHO IS YOUR FAMILY?
- ON A SCALE OF 1-10, HOW MESSY IS YOUR FAMILY? EXPLAIN.
- WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE/VISION FOR YOUR FAMILY?
- DO YOU FEEL GOD IS SEARCHING FOR YOU? IN THE SEASON YOUR CURRENTLY IN, HOW IS GOD MEETING YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?
- DO YOU PUT GOD'S DIRECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY OVER YOUR DIRECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY?
- WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LEAVE BEHIND TO EXPERIENCE FAMILY GOD'S WAY?
- CLOSING THOUGHT: TRUST GOD CAN TRANSFORM YOUR FAMILY. (GENESIS 22:1-14)
- LET'S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.



DON'T SAVE ME
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GOOD NEWS
FOR SKEPTICS

WHY DOES THE BIBLE MATTER?

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS
SEP. 29 & OCT. 1, 2023

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17 AND 4:1-5

- WHY ARE WORDS IMPORTANT? WHAT IS THE BIBLE, AND HOW DID WE GET IT?
- CAN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE ALONE SAVE US? WHY OR WHY NOT?
- “BEFORE YOU TAKE THE WORD OUT, YOU’VE GOT TO TAKE THE WORD IN.” DO YOU LET GOD’S WORD TEACH, CORRECT, AND EQUIP YOU?
- WHY IS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THE BIBLE FROM JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND YOUR LIFE’S MISSION?
- READ JOHN 1:1-5, 14. DO YOUR LIVES ATTRACT NON-BELIEVERS? DO YOUR CHOICES, ATTITUDES, AND LIFESTYLE LEAD OTHERS TO GOD AND HIS WORD?
- LET’S NOW SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.



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GOOD NEWS
FOR SKEPTICS

HOW CAN THERE BE A SAVIOR AND SO MUCH SUFFERING

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | SEP. 24, 2023

READ ROMANS 8:17-28 (NIV)

OTHER TEXTS TO READ FOR MORE CONTEXT – ROMANS 7:14-25, ROMANS 6:22-23

- TAKE A MINUTE TO PAUSE AND THINK OF A SPECIFIC TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU EXPERIENCED SUFFERING. SHARE A MOMENT WITH YOUR GROUP.
- WHY DOES GOD ALLOW US TO GO THROUGH PAINFUL EXPERIENCES? WHAT IS THE POINT OF SUFFERING?
- “PEOPLE CAN BECOME SO FIXATED WITH WHY GOD DOESN'T STOP SUFFERING THAT THEY DON'T SEE HOW GOD SHOWS UP DURING SUFFERING.” DO YOU AGREE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
- HOW CAN THE CHURCH BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE GOD'S VEHICLE OF FAITH, HEALING, MATURITY, AND LOVE IN A WORLD OF EVIL AND SUFFERING?
- READ ROMANS 8:18 AND JAMES 1:2-8. WE CAN GET STRONGER IN SUFFERING. CAN YOU NAME ANY INDIVIDUAL IN THE BIBLE THAT WAS USED GREATLY THAT DIDN'T SUFFER DEEPLY?



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GOOD NEWS
FOR SKEPTICS

HOW HAS HYPOCRISY HURT THE CHURCH? AND HOW HAS IT HINDERED THE GOOD NEWS?

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | SEP. 14 & 17, 2023

READ MATTHEW 23:1-12 (NIV)

- ON A SCALE OF 1-10, HOW WELL DO YOU PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH (MATTHEW 23:1-12), AND WHY?
- REFLECT ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE GROUP.
- DO WE PRIORITIZE TALKING ABOUT GOD OVER TALKING TO HIM? ARE OUR ACTIONS FOR GOD ROOTED IN A GENUINE CONNECTION WITH HIM?
- CONSIDERING MATTHEW 25:31-40, DO WE EMPHASIZE CONDEMNING SIN MORE THAN SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH SINNERS?
- IN LIGHT OF MATTHEW 28:18-20, HOW CAN WE SHIFT FROM BEING RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES TO BECOMING DISCIPLE-MAKERS IN AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS?
- LET'S SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.



DON'T SAVE ME
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GOOD NEWS
FOR SKEPTICS

WHEN CHURCH DOESN'T FIT MY LIFESTYLE

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | SEP. 10, 2023

READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-14 (NIV)

- HOW CAN WE FOSTER UNITY AND COMPASSION WITHIN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY, CONSIDERING OUR DIVERSE LIFESTYLES AND PERSPECTIVES, AS RECOMMENDED IN COLOSSIANS?
- WHAT'S CLUTTERING YOUR PRIORITIES? IS YOUR LIFE TOO BUSY FOR JESUS?
- WHY IS IT CRUCIAL TO ALIGN OUR LIFESTYLE WITH GOD'S WILL, RATHER THAN TRYING TO FIT GOD INTO OUR EXISTING LIFESTYLE?
- ARE WE LEADING THE WAY, OR ARE WE FOLLOWING GOD?
- LET'S SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.



SERMON TITLE GOES HERE

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Questions for further discussion:

What stood out to you most from this message?

Anything you felt challenged by?

Anything you felt encouraged by?

Any questions emerged as a result?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray with one another.





THE CHURCH:
BEYOND
THE BUILDING

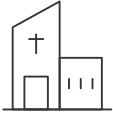
"WE ARE A HOUSE OF PRAYER"

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | SEPT. 03, 2023

READ MATTHEW 21:12-13 (NIV)

- WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE TEACHES US ABOUT THE PRIORITIES AND VALUES JESUS HAD FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP?
- HOW CAN WE APPLY THESE PRINCIPLES TO OUR OWN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS TOWARD PLACES OF WORSHIP TODAY?
- REFLECTING ON PSALM 51:10-12, HOW CAN WE USE THIS AS A GUIDE FOR OUR PERSONAL PRAYERS WHEN SEEKING FORGIVENESS AND SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?
- PASTOR SUSIE REFERRED TO THE IDEA OF CHANGING OUR "WHAT IF..." TO "EVEN IF..." STATEMENTS. HOW DOES THIS RESONATE WITH YOU?
- LET'S SHARE OUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY.





THE CHURCH:
BEYOND
THE BUILDING

"BUILDING A RECONCILING COMMUNITY"

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | AUGUST 27, 2023

READ CORINTHIAN 5:14-21, 6:1

- WHAT DOES RECONCILIATION MEAN TO YOU?
- DOES THIS MESSAGE CHANGE YOUR UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT RECONCILIATION TRULY MEANS?
- DR. EFREM MENTIONED HOW THE CHURCH IS A PLACE TO DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THAT CONCEPT OR NOT?
- DO YOU FEEL PROMPTED BY GOD TO RECONCILE WITH SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE? IF YES, WHAT OBSTACLES HAVE HINDERED YOU?
- WHAT ACTIONS CAN YOU PURSUE TO IMPROVE YOUR ABILITY TO RECONCILE? HOW CAN YOUR GROUP SUPPORT YOUR PROGRESS?
- LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO SHARE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS WE HAVE AND COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER.





THE CHURCH:
BEYOND
THE BUILDING

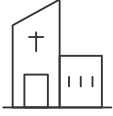
"BUILDING A RECONCILING COMMUNITY"

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | AUGUST 27, 2023

READ 2 CORINTHIAN 5:14-21, 6:1

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BEYOND
THE BUILDING

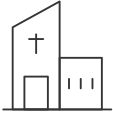
"BUILDING UP GENEROSITY"

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | AUGUST 20, 2023

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-21

- WHAT CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION THE MOST IN THIS SCRIPTURE?
- FROM THESE VERSES, WHAT COULD MAKE PEOPLE THINK ABOUT HOW THEY VIEW AND DEAL WITH THEIR MATERIAL WEALTH?
- DR. EFREM DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF "LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND" (1 TIMOTHY 6:12). HOW DOES THIS CONCEPT MANIFEST IN YOUR LIFE?
- WAS THERE SOMETHING DR. EFREM SAID THAT INSPIRED OR AFFIRMED YOU PERSONALLY?
- LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO SHARE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS WE HAVE AND COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER.





THE CHURCH:
BEYOND
THE BUILDING

"INTEGRITY: BUILDING FROM THE INSIDE OUT"

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | AUGUST 13, 2023

READ ACTS 5:1-11

- WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU MOST FROM THIS SCRIPTURE? HOW DO YOU RELATE TO ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA?
- PASTOR SUSIE MENTIONED THAT INTEGRITY IS THE STATE OF BEING WHOLE AND UNDIVIDED. HOW DOES THIS REALITY CHALLENGE YOU?
- IN WHAT WAYS CAN WE APPLY THE PRINCIPLES FROM THIS PASSAGE TO OUR OWN LIVES AND CHURCH COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND AUTHENTICITY?
- ANY QUESTIONS EMERGED AS A RESULT?
- TAKE TIME TO SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY WITH ONE ANOTHER.





THE CHURCH:
BEYOND
THE BUILDING

"BEING & BUILDING DISCIPLE MAKERS"

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | AUGUST 6, 2023

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20

- WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU MOST FROM THIS MESSAGE?
- ANYTHING YOU FELT CHALLENGED BY?
- ANYTHING YOU FELT ENCOURAGED BY?
- ANY QUESTIONS EMERGED AS A RESULT?
- TAKE TIME TO SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY WITH ONE ANOTHER.





TOO BIG TO FAIL: DISCOVERING THE OMNIPRESENT GOD



SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JULY 30, 2023

READ: PSALM 23 (NIV)

- What stood out to you most from this message?
- Anything you felt challenged by?
- Anything you felt encouraged by?
- Any questions emerged as a result?
- Take time to share prayer requests and pray with one another.



FROM SECRET TO SACRED

PASTOR CHRISTA ARMSTEAD

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JULY 23, 2023

READ: PROVERBS 18:21(NIV)

- “Words Hold Immense Power” -- Has there ever been a time in your life when words held power over you?
- People’s opinions carry some weight but God’s words outweigh any human perspectives. Do you agree with the sentiment of this phrase? Why or why not? Share some examples.
- Read Psalm 139:13-18; What stood out to you in this scripture and why?
- Anything you felt challenged by Pastor Christa?
- “Help others dispel the lies they might believe” -- Pastor Christa mentioned she believed a lie about her and how it led to a brush with death. Are there any lies that you believe and how would you dispel those lies?
- Take time to share prayer requests and pray with one another.

ILLEGITIMATE

ICEBREAKERS, GROUPS SUPPORT, FAQ





*GOD HAS ALL POWER:
DISCOVERING THE
STRENGTH OF GOD*



SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JULY 16, 2023

READ: EPHESIANS 1:15-23 (NIV)

- What stood out to you most from this message?
- Anything you felt challenged by?
- Anything you felt encouraged by?
- Any questions emerged as a result?
- Take time to share prayer requests and pray with one another.





THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE



SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JULY 9, 2023

- How would you describe God to someone who was genuinely unfamiliar? Why would you describe God this way?
- “There’s no hate like Christian love” why do you think this saying has become popularized?
- Are there any people in your life who you think might agree with this sentiment? If so, what are some ways you might be able to heal this perception?
- Read John 14:6. How would you explain this verse to someone who doesn’t follow Jesus?
- How does John 14:6-9 help you gain a deeper understanding of who God is?
- What questions remain after reading this passage?



A KINDER, GENTLER CHRISTIANITY

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JULY 2, 2023

Questions for further discussion:

What stood out to you most from this message?

Anything you felt challenged by?

Anything you felt encouraged by?

Any questions emerged as a result?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray with one another.



EL ROI: THE GOD WHO SEES

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JUN. 4, 2023

Read passage: Genesis 16:1-16



QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt unseen?
- Can you relate to Sarai, who got impatient and took matters into her own hands instead of waiting on God's timing? Share a story if you've got one.
- Can you relate to Abram, who instead of doing what was right, went along with what was wrong?
- Can you relate to Hagar, who ran from her problems and almost gave up hope?
- Can you recall a time when you felt seen/heard or sought after by God? How did that change you?
- What gives you hope from this passage?



ELOHIM

THE ALL-POWERFUL GOD

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JUN. 11, 2023

Read passage: Genesis 1:1-5



QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Elohim means the All-Powerful God and Creator. This is saying God is first. How are you putting God first in your life.
- How can you become more dependent on God's power verses your own?
- What do you see as the differences between biblical or Godly justice verses worldly or cultural justice.
- Knowing that all people are made in the image of God, why do you think there is such a strong emphasis on the most vulnerable in the bible (The homeless, the poor, the fatherless, the foreigner, the widow, etc.)?



“I AM”

YHWH

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JUN. 18, 2023

Read passages: Exodus 3:1-14,
John 8:52-58, and Psalm 90:2



QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Who is the “angel of the Lord” in Exodus chapter 3?
- By what other names is God called in this chapter?
What can we learn about God, from the use of some of these names, and from the name that God gives of himself to Moses?
- Why did God ask Moses to take his sandals off?
- In John chapter 8 verse 58, Jesus says to the Jews, “before Abraham was, ‘I am.’” What does he mean by that?
To what was he referencing back to?
- In Psalm 90 verse 2, the Psalmist says, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting ‘you are God.’ Or ‘you are.’ To what was the Psalmist referring back to?



WHAT'S IN A NAME

WHAT WE CALL GOD MATTERS

JEHOVAH-RAPHA

THE LORD WHO HEALS

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | JUN. 25, 2023

**Read passages: 1 Peter 2:24-25,
Psalm 103:3, and Luke 5:27-32**



QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Is it difficult to know God as a healer?
- Have you experienced God as a healer?
- Why do you think God doesn't heal every situation?
- How would you describe God as a healer to someone else?



Staying in Alignment: Like Abraham

Read passage: Genesis 22:1-18

- 01** Were you familiar with this passage before? How did re-reading the passage/listening to the message help you understand this story better?
- 02** What repeated phrases in this passage stand out to you and why?
- 03** How can you practice a “here I am” posture before God in your daily life?
- 04** What would it look like to “look up” more regularly in your life?
- 05** Is there anything that you need to say (in faith) that “the Lord will provide” for in your life right now?
- 06** Abraham was commended for not withholding anything from God. Are there any ways in which you feel like you might be withholding from God? How do you think your life might change if you didn’t hold back?



From Sling to Strength:

Parenting, Courage, and Conquering Giants!

Read passage: 1 SAMUEL 17:8-50

- 01** What is most intimidating to you about the way Goliath is described in these verses? How did the Israelites, including Saul their king, react when they saw Goliath?
- 02** Think about the last trial you had to face. What overwhelmed your mind during that time—thoughts of the giant’s power to destroy you or thoughts of God’s victory through you?
- 03** How had fear of Goliath spread throughout the people of Israel? How have you seen fear spread to others in your life? And How has facing challenges allowed you to understand God’s power?
- 04** Why do you think David was willing to face Goliath when none of the Israelite soldiers were?
- 05** What are some experiences David remembered in his testimony (v. 37) that enabled him to truly rely on God? David didn’t allow the size of his opponent to keep him from taking on the challenge. Why do you think David was able to have this kind of confidence?
- 06** Read 1 Samuel 17:8-10,16 again. How does David’s attitude (vv. 32-33) compare with Goliath’s? How does his attitude compare with Saul’s? Is your attitude toward the challenges in your life more like Saul’s or David’s? How does this attitude need to change?
- 07** Knowing God may use challenges to equip us for other challenges, how will your attitude toward God change when you feel like you’re being tested? And How does this change the way you parent, lead, serve, etc?



CHOSEN

JOINING GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE VULNERABLE

A Mother's Faith

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | MAY 14, 2023

Questions for further discussion:

Read Scripture: Isaiah 66:13

- 01.** Is it hard to you to relate to the imagery of a loving mother? Why or why not?
- 02.** Have you ever thought about the “motherly” attributes of God? What comes to mind?
- 03.** “A godly mother loves us at our worst” – how does this statement make you feel? Have you ever experienced this to be true?
- 04.** “A godly mother hopes (for our best)” When have you experienced this to be true? And how so? *read John 17 if you need some help getting deeper into discussion
- 05.** “A godly mother sacrifices for our future.” Read Philippians 2:1-8 and discuss how a godly mother can reflect the heart of Jesus back to us.
- 06.** Take some time to think about the “mothers” in your life (biological, extended, spiritual). How have they impacted your faith and how do they encourage you to do the same for others?



CHOSEN

JOINING GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE VULNERABLE

Answering God's call to Care for the most Vulnerable

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | MAY 7, 2023

Have you ever felt like an exile in this world?
Maybe even within your family or friend group?
How has that impacted you?

Read passages: 1 Peter 1:1-3, 1 Peter 2:9-12 & 1 Peter 3:8-9

- 01.** How does 1 Peter 1:1-3 give you perspective on your place in the world?
- 02.** What does 1 Peter 2:9-12 tell you about who you are? Try putting it in your own words in today's context.
- 03.** What does 1 Peter 2:9-12 tell you about what you should do?
- 04.** How does 1 Peter 3:8-9 teach you to live in community? In what areas of your life might this apply now?
- 05.** How will this message/these texts challenge you to think/live/be different this week?



CHOSEN

JOINING GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE VULNERABLE

The Blessing of Being Chosen

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | APR. 23, 2023

Scriptures for further discussion:

Read passages: Matthew 9:9-13; 18-26; 35-38

- 01.** Can you remember a time when you were “chosen” for something special? What made it memorable?
- 02.** What does Matthew 9:9-13 tell us about who Jesus “chooses” and for what?
- 03.** What does Matthew 9:18-26 tell us about how Jesus allows us to choose him?
- 04.** What does Matthew 9:35-38 tell us about how Jesus responds to the “crowd in crisis” and how we are to respond?
- 05.** Is there anything you feel like Jesus is “choosing” you to do/be right now? How are you going to respond?



CHOSEN

JOINING GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE VULNERABLE

The Blessing of Becoming Disadvantaged

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | APR. 16, 2023

Opening Series Thought

How do you think the average person would define what it means to be great?

How does this Scripture challenge that definition?

How does it challenge you?

Read passage: Ephesians 2:10

- 01.** What are the “good works” you think God might be calling you to right now?
- 02.** Who are the “unseen” in your community?
- 03.** How can you get more proximate to those who are at a disadvantage?
- 04.** In what ways can you look to “put yourself at a disadvantage for the advantage of others?”



Waiting on a Promise

01 What's your history like with significant people in your lives and promises made?

“The strength of a promise is rooted in the character of them one who promised” - Keith Jenkins

02 Are you currently in a season of waiting? If you can, would you share what you are waiting?

03 What did the Holy Spirit illuminate for you personally from the service?

04 In light of the sermon, how will you wait differently than you have in the past?

05 Are what you say your priorities are in alignment with your actions?



Celebrating Freedom in Christ

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | APR. 2, 2023

Read passage: Ephesians 1:15-19

- 01** Pastor Bob asked the question – what are we capable of when we live out freedom in Christ? What does Ephesians 1:15-19 tell us about what we're capable of and why?
- 02** What does Romans 6:18-23 tell us about what we can receive from Christ?
- 03** What does Romans 5:6-11 (and Ephesians 2:14-16) tell us about what freedom in Christ calls us to?
- 04** What does Luke 4:18-19 and Luke 19:10 tell us about how we should view the world around us in light of our freedom?
- 05** Finally, how does Romans 12:9-18 and Ephesians 2:19-21 encourage us to live in unity with others?



Celebrating Real Change

SERMON DEEP DIVE QUESTIONS | MAR. 26, 2023

Read passages: Luke 4:14-21; Luke 4:38-44;
Luke 5:17-26; Luke 5:27-32

- 01** Can you think of a time when change felt difficult for you? What made it so hard?
- 02** In what ways does God try to “gain our attention: according to Luke 4:14-21?
- 03** How does Luke 4:38-44 broaden your understanding of what “healing” really is?
- 04** What does Luke 5:17-26 tell us about what we should do as a result of our healing?
- 05** What does Luke 5:27-32 tell us about repentance? And how does it help us see that Jesus comes with salvation and not shame?

*Spend some time in prayer for each other – particularly if there is something that needs “changing.”



Choosing What's Best

Read passage: Luke 10:38-42

- 01** At your current pace of life, are you more like Martha or Mary?
- 02** Do you have any tools or resources that help eliminate the amount of choices you have to make every day?
- 03** What is a choice that you regret that ended up learning a valuable life lesson from?
- 04** What can you change to help create a healthier rhythm of worshiping before working?
- 05** Are what you say your priorities are in alignment with your actions?



Hope
Health
Healing

Are you willing
to be a healer?

WEEK 6

READ PASSAGES: MATTHEW 9:35-38 & MATTHEW 10:1

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ Jesus says “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”
Where is there a field to be harvested around you?
- ▶ Where do you see a need in the field around you?
- ▶ Where do you feel a need in the field around you?
- ▶ Where can you participate in healing in the field around you?
- ▶ Where and how can you empower other people to participate in the work with you?
- ▶ What is an action step you can take this week to make this a reality?

Take some time to pray for one another.



*Hope
Health
Healing*

*Do you want
to be healed?*

WEEK 5

READ PASSAGE: JOHN 5:1-17

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ Think of an area in your life where you need healing. Stop and ask yourself the question: “do I want to be healed?” How do you know this?
- ▶ What keeps me stuck (like the man by the pool)?
- ▶ What lies am I believing? (John 5:7)
- ▶ What is God calling me to do about it? (John 5:8-9; 14-15)
- ▶ What decisions and actions do I need to take in order to go forward in healing?



Hope
Health
Healing

Health is an
Inside Job

WEEK 4

READ PASSAGES: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24 & 1 TIMOTHY 4:8

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ In what ways are you prioritizing your health right now?
- ▶ What are some signs and sources of unhealth that you can identify?
- ▶ How does a Biblical framework of health give you a better understanding of wholistic health?
- ▶ What can you do right now to develop a healthier spirit (pneuma)?
- ▶ What can you do right now to develop a healthier soul (psyche)?
- ▶ What can you do right now to develop a healthier body (soma)?

Ask if anyone has any prayer needs specifically concerning their health, spend some time in prayer together.



Hope
Health
Healing

Got Health?

WEEK 3

READ PASSAGE: PROVERBS 3:5-8

Our health is connected to our ability to learn information and learn from our experiences, but ultimately it's connected to how close we are to God, how much we really trust God and How much we submit to God - who is all wisdom and truth, which is the ultimate source of Health.

HEALTH CHECK UP QUESTIONS



Check your heart – who/what has your heart?

Ask God to replace who or what has your heart with him.



Check your schedule – who/what has your time?

Ask God to replace who or what has your time with him.



Check your diet – what are you consuming?

Ask God to replace what you are consuming that is unhealthy (in your heart, soul, mind, and stomach) with what would please Him.



Hope
Health
Healing



READ PASSAGE: MARK 5:21-34

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- Can you think of a time when you felt unseen? If you feel comfortable share with the group about that.
- What about a time when you felt seen? How did that give you hope?
- Who in our societal context gets treated like the woman with the issue of bleeding? How so?
- Is there someone in your life that you feel like you could help feel more seen and help offer some hope?
- What's something that makes you feel seen and causes you to grow in hope?



Joy AND PAIN



week 4

Eternal Joy

Jan. 29, 2023

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Study the passage

- What can you learn from this text about Mourning?
- What can you learn from this text about rejoicing?
- Have you ever had a time in life where you experienced mourning the death of a loved one but still had joy? If so, how would you explain to someone how that's possible?
- Does this text challenge or expand your views on death? If yes, how do?
- In the reverse, how does this text challenge your views on life?

Reflect and share

Because this may be a tender topic for some, take some extra time to share prayer requests and pray together.



Joy AND PAIN



week 3

Joy and Sorrow

Jan. 22, 2023

Opening series thought

God doesn't promise us a life without pain, but you can find God's goodness in difficult times. In this series we will unpack what Biblical joy is and gain a deeper understanding of how to keep a joy that endures even through times of pain.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-10

Study the passage

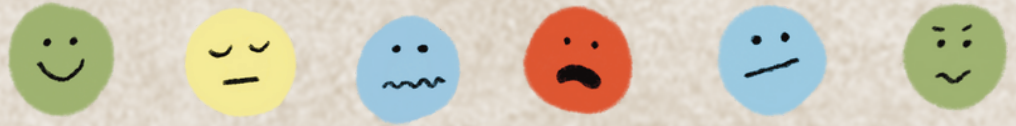
- How does Paul differentiate between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow?
- Can you think of a time when you've experienced sorrow over a conflict?
- Did you feel worldly sorrow or godly sorrow?
- Did the conflict ever get resolved?

Reflect and share

- Have you ever been wounded by someone who spoke truth to you for your own good?
- Have you ever had to wound someone with truth for their own good?
- How did that go?
- How does this scripture (or Sunday's message) help you commit more deeply to the ministry of reconciliation in your own life?



Joy AND PAIN



week 2

Joy and Justice

Jan. 15, 2023

Opening series thought

God doesn't promise us a life without pain, but you can find God's goodness in difficult times. In this series we will unpack what Biblical joy is and gain a deeper understanding of how to keep a joy that endures even through times of pain.

READ ISAIAH 61:1-11

Study the passage

- What distinguishes biblical joy from worldly joy?
- What distinguishes biblical suffering from worldly suffering?
- How does this passage inform your view of justice?

- What does Isaiah 61:1-3 say about who we are?
- What does Isaiah 61:4-7 say about who we are?
- What does Isaiah 61:8-11 say about who we are?

Reflect and share

- How should all these things cause us to live differently?
- What's something that you can do this week to pursue joy through the pursuit of justice?



Joy AND PAIN



week 1

Finding Joy

Jan. 8, 2023

Opening series thought

God doesn't promise us a life without pain, but you can find God's goodness in difficult times. In this series we will unpack what Biblical joy is and gain a deeper understanding of how to keep a joy that endures even through times of pain.

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

Study the passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect and share

- If God promised rest, why might it be hard to hold Him to it?
- Has anyone ever modeled rest well for you?
- How would you explain the difference between rest and laziness?
- How is rest an act of surrender?
- What are some ways you can better "prepare" for rest?



Joy AND PAIN



week 1

Finding Joy

Jan. 8, 2023

Opening series thought

God doesn't promise us a life without pain, but you can find God's goodness in difficult times. In this series we will unpack what Biblical joy is and gain a deeper understanding of how to keep a joy that endures even through times of pain.

Opening question

Why should we prioritize rest?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

Study the passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect and share

- If God promised rest, why might it be hard to hold Him to it?
- Has anyone ever modeled rest well for you?
- How would you explain the difference between rest and laziness?
- How is rest an act of surrender?
- What are some ways you can better "prepare" for rest?



Rest is the way forward

Opening Series Thought

Why should we prioritize rest?

Opening Question

Is it a challenge to find rest in your life right now?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Hebrews 4:1-16

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

- If God promised rest, why might it be hard to hold Him to it?
- Has anyone ever modeled rest well for you?
- How would you explain the difference between rest and laziness?
- How is rest an act of surrender?
- What are some ways you can better “prepare” for rest?

End in Prayer



Rest for Life

Opening Series Thought

Why should we prioritize rest?

Opening Question

Is it a challenge to find rest in your life right now?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Isaiah 58:1-14

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

- How has your view of Sabbath changed over the course of this series?
- How does Sabbath relate to your holiness?
- How does Sabbath relate to your humility?
- How does Sabbath relate to your wholeness?
- If you've been more intentional about "practicing or observing" Sabbath in the last couple of weeks take some time to share about what has been helpful and what has been challenging.

End in Prayer



Blessed to Rest

Opening Series Thought

Why should we prioritize rest?

Opening Question

Is it a challenge to find rest in your life right now?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Exodus 20:1-11

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

- Do you have a rhythm of Sabbath in your life right now? A period when you completely rest from work (emails/texts, even social media?)
- Do you have any fears that keep you from putting a 24 hour period of Sabbath into practice?
- How might keeping the Sabbath help cultivate your identity in Christ?
- What can you do to help build a rhythm of Sabbath into your life?
- What are some things that would be life-giving on your Sabbath?

End in Prayer



WEEK 1

Nov. 27, 2022

God's Way:
Prioritizing Rest

Finding a Rest Area

Opening Series Thought

Why should we prioritize rest?

Opening Question

Is it a challenge to find rest in your life right now?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Matthew 11:25-30

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

Additional questions to consider

"God's rest is connected to trust"

"God's people too many times chose idolatry over intimacy"



WEEK 1

Nov. 27, 2022

God's Way:
Prioritizing Rest

Finding a Rest Area

- What does Genesis 2:1-3 tell us about rest?
- What does Matthew 11:25-27 tell us about rest?
- What does Matthew 11:28 tell us about rest?
- What does Matthew 11:29 tell us about rest?
- Think about the phrase "God's rest is connected to trust." What do you need to entrust to God right now?

End in Prayer



Peace over Complexity

Opening Series Thought

God desires that we find peace by not simply engaging him for a moment but experiencing him for a lifetime.

Opening Question

Why is it so hard to get a simple answer these days?

Open in Prayer

Read together: 2 Corinthians 11:1-31

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

- What are some things Paul wanted us to be sure about?
- What are some things that seem “too good to be true” about the Gospel?
- What are some current conspiracies about the Gospel that you see out there right now?
- How do you relate to the statement “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness...”
- What’s a simple truth about the Gospel that will help anchor you this week?



Peace over Busyness

Opening Series Thought

God desires that we find peace by not simply engaging him for a moment but experiencing him for a lifetime.

Opening Question

Do you find it difficult to “be still?”

Open in Prayer

Read together: Luke 10:38-42

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

- What would it look like to “open your home to Jesus” today?
- What are some of the “many things” you find yourself upset and worried about?
- Is there a Mary in your life? Perhaps it's someone who you feel “annoyed at” for some reason? Why do you feel this way and what is something you can learn from them?
- What is a simple practice that will allow you to make more room for Jesus in your day to day?



WEEK 3

Nov. 13, 2022

**God's Life:
Choosing Simplicity**

Peace over Busyness

End in Prayer



Peace over Worry

Opening Series Thought

God desires that we find peace by not simply engaging him for a moment but experiencing him for a lifetime.

Opening Question

What is in the way of “simply” saying yes to God?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Philippians 4:4-9

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

How can we choose peace in the face of opposition? (Read Phil 1:12-21)

- Can you think of a time when you've had to CHOOSE peace in the midst of hard times?

How can we choose peace over worldly possessions? (Read Phil 3:3-11)

- When do you find yourself wrestling with being too “devoted to” worldly possessions?

How can we choose peace for a life of transformation? (Read Phil 4:4-9)

- Are there any ways that you can be more intentional about passing on peace to others in your life?



WEEK 2 Nov. 6, 2022

**God's Life:
Choosing Simplicity**

Peace over Worry

Reflect & Share

- Why do you think Jesus “had to” go to Samaria and why was that so significant?
- What does this passage tell us about reconciliation and how it is integral to worship?
- Are there any ways in which you feel like you might relate to the Samaritan woman? Any roadblocks in your worship that you’d like to remove or overcome?
- Much like prayer, worship is meant to be transformational, not transactional. How can you be more intentional about experiencing transformational worship in your life this week?

End in Prayer



Peace over Possessions

Opening Series Thought

God desires that we find peace by not simply engaging him for a moment but experiencing him for a lifetime.

Opening Question

What is keeping us from experiencing God daily?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Matthew 19:16-30

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What further questions do you have about this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

- How do we find peace according to Matthew 19:16-17? (God's presence)
- How do we find peace according to Matthew 19: 18-22? (God's provision)
- How do we find peace according to Matthew 19: 27-30? (God's program)

End in Prayer



WEEK 1

Oct. 30, 2022

**God's Life:
Choosing Simplicity**

Peace over Possessions

Reflect & Share

- Why do you think Jesus “had to” go to Samaria and why was that so significant?
- What does this passage tell us about reconciliation and how it is integral to worship?
- Are there any ways in which you feel like you might relate to the Samaritan woman? Any roadblocks in your worship that you’d like to remove or overcome?
- Much like prayer, worship is meant to be transformational, not transactional. How can you be more intentional about experiencing transformational worship in your life this week?

End in Prayer



WEEK 1

Oct. 2, 2022

Worshipping God's Way

**God's Presence:
A Life of Worship**

Opening Series Thought

We are worshipping all the time whether we recognize it or not. Worship can be many things, including “the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity (of God).” Or it can be worship of “adoration or devotion, comparable to religious homage, shown towards a person or principle” (think celebrity worship, political/national worship, sports worship). Worship can even be experienced through relationships that lead to infidelity or idolatry.

Ultimately, Worship is bigger than connecting to songs, but connecting TO God and God's purpose.

Opening Question

How does what we just read (or what you heard on Sunday) differ from how you might have defined worship in the past?

Open in Prayer

Read together: John 4:1-42

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What do you have further questions about in this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?



WEEK 1

Oct. 2, 2022

Worshipping God's Way

God's Presence:
A Life of Worship

Reflect & Share

- Why do you think Jesus “had to” go to Samaria and why was that so significant?
- What does this passage tell us about reconciliation and how it is integral to worship?
- Are there any ways in which you feel like you might relate to the Samaritan woman? Any roadblocks in your worship that you’d like to remove or overcome?
- Much like prayer, worship is meant to be transformational, not transactional. How can you be more intentional about experiencing transformational worship in your life this week?

End in Prayer



Worship with your whole life

Opening Series Thought

What are you willing to give your whole life to? God gave his whole life to us; worshipping Him acknowledges His sacrifice. Worship doesn't begin with what WE do for God, but what He gave for us!

Let's dive deeper into what it means to be living sacrifices and to live transformed lives. This is a lifestyle, not just a "Sunday" thing.

Opening Question

What you heard on Sunday may be a new concept for you. What does it mean to you to worship with your whole life?

Open in Prayer

Read together: Romans 12:1-21

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What do you have further questions about in this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?



WEEK 2

Oct. 9, 2022

**God's Presence:
A Life of Worship**

Worship with your whole life

Reflect & Share

- What are some things that cause you (or used to cause you) to struggle with worshipping God with your whole life?
- What's typically the most challenging group of people for you to get along with?
- How do you keep yourself in position to live a transformed life?
- What keeps people from using their God-given gifts to serve the Church?
- What's the toughest thing to wrestle with in Romans 12:9-21? Why?

End in Prayer



Generous Worship

Opening Question

When you hear the term Generous Worship what's the first thing that comes to mind?

Open in Prayer

Read together: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Study the Passage

1. What stands out about the way the churches in Macedonia gave?
2. What parts of this passage do you find encouraging?
3. What parts of this passage do you find challenging?

Reflection questions

1. Would you consider yourself a generous giver? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to commit yourself first to the Lord and then to others? (verse 5)
3. Do you think your generosity is affected by revisiting the generosity of Jesus? (Verse 7-9)
4. Some people give freely, while others give out of obligation - what motivates your generosity?
5. What can we learn about generosity from the churches in Macedonia?
6. When was the last time you prayed specifically about what God desires from you in the area of giving?
7. What is God saying to you regarding the area of giving?



Generous Worship Pt. 2

Opening Series Thought

We worship in a variety of ways, not just in song or at a church service. Giving is an expression of worship. In this short series we will discuss what a life of “generous worship” looks like.

Opening Question

What was the best gift you ever received? Can you think of the best gift you’ve ever given? What made it so special?

Open in Prayer

Read together: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What do you have further questions about in this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?

Reflect & Share

Additional questions to consider:

- What can we learn about GENEROUS GIVING from 2 Cor 9:1-5?
- What can we learn about CHEERFUL GIVING from 2 Cor 9:6-9?
- What can we learn about CONSTANT GIVING from 2 Cor 9:10-12?



WEEK 4

Oct. 23, 2022

**God's Presence:
A Life of Worship**

Generous Worship Pt. 2

How can you live into an expression of worship in your giving this week?

Share some prayer requests and close in prayer



WEEK 1

Sept. 11, 2022

Turning pain into purpose



Scan the qr code to join us in
21 Days of Prayer + access
our weekly prayer guide!

21 DAYS
OF PRAYER

Opening Series Thought

Oftentimes God's people are provoked to prayer by problems and pain. During this experience, we expect something from God (transactional). But what if prayer is about what God wants to do in us (transformational)?

Opening Question

Do you find it difficult to talk to God? Why or why not?

Open in Prayer

Read Together: 1 Samuel 1:9-18 (NIV)

Study the Passage

- What drove Hannah to pray?
- How does this passage give you insight into prayer?
- Why do you think prayer helped Hannah overcome bitterness or cope with grief?



Reflect & Share

- When do you find it easiest to pray? Why do you think this is?
- When do you find it hard to pray? Why do you think this is?
- What have you found helpful when it comes to prayer?
- What is something you can do this week to help foster more prayer in your life?

Close in Prayer



WEEK 2

Sept. 18, 2022

God's talking:
Real People
Real Prayers

Staying Connected



Scan the qr code to join us in
21 Days of Prayer + access
our weekly prayer guide!

21 DAYS
OF PRAYER

Opening Series Thought

Prayer is our primary mode of connection with God. Sometimes we experience the frustration of losing connection (think about what it's like to lose cell phone connection or internet/cable connection). This week we'll talk about how to keep your connection with God strong.

Opening Question

Where or how did you first learn how to pray?

Open in Prayer

Read Together: Luke 11: 1-13

Study the Passage

- What does Luke 11:1-4 teach us about connecting to God?
- What does Luke 11:5-10 teach us about praying about our circumstances?
- What does Luke 11:11-3 teach us about God's nature when we pray?



Reflect & Share

- Have you ever felt like you “lost” connection with God? Why do you think that was?
- Is there anything in the way of your connection to God right now?
- What enhances the strength of your connection?
- What can you do this week to help improve the quality of your “server” so that you can connect with God more regularly?
- Is there something you can do to help someone else connect with God more readily as well?

Share prayer requests & close in prayer



WEEK 3

Sept. 25, 2022

God's talking:
Real People
Real Prayers

"Wear Him Out"



Scan the qr code to join us in
21 Days of Prayer + access
our weekly prayer guide!

21 DAYS
OF PRAYER

Opening Series Thought

When we study what Jesus has to say about prayer, what if we learned that prayer is not about getting what you want?

Too many people quit praying, and sometimes even abandon God, because they prayed and prayed and a specific prayer was never answered. The good news is that the frustration that we've all had, from unanswered prayer, is not a mystery. Jesus actually talks about it, so that we may know, that God understands and cares about our frustrations.

Opening Question

Have you ever been "relentlessly persistent" about something in prayer? What happened as a result?

Open in Prayer

Read Together: Luke 18:1-8

Study the Passage

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What do you have further questions about in this passage?
- How do you think this passage might apply to us today?



Reflect & Share

In the sermon we talked about different ways God might be answering your will.

- 1) Maybe it's not God's will
- 2) Maybe God's having you wait
- 3) Maybe it's not God's best

Which of the above have you seen play out in your life?

- How does this encourage you (or even frustrate you more! You can be honest)?
- What do you think God wants to do in you when He has you "wait"?
- Discuss any other ways you've experienced God answer your prayers in unexpected ways.

Share prayer requests & close in prayer

