

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

September 30, 18

"SENT" - Week 2

John 12:27-36

For more information or to join a Growth Group you can visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115

Quick Tip: This is the second week of the Growth Group semester. There may be someone who signed up for your group who didn't make it to your first meeting. Take a moment to reach out and let them know that your group is meeting and that there is a spot for them.

Remember: you don't need to get to all the questions. Also, as your groups' leader you may have some questions of your own that are more appropriate to your context, feel free to ad-lib or ask follow-up questions. The goal is to get your group into a meaningful discussion that relates to this past Sunday's message.

Quick Review

These are "soft-ball" questions designed to do two things 1. Get people talking. 2. Serve as refresher or review for those who don't recall the message or for those who missed Sunday's service.

1. Looking back at your notes from this past Sunday's message, is there anything that you are likely to remember 2 weeks from now?
2. Was there anything from the message that challenged or confused you?

My Story

1. On Sunday, we learned that to glorify something is to esteem it as being supremely important and beautiful at the same time. Can you recall a time in your life when you were struck by something's beauty and importance? In light of that, how do you understand glory?

The purpose of this question is to help us understand what glory is. Glory, or to glorify, can seem esoteric to many people but, there are probably some tangible examples from our collective experience which can illuminate the concept.

This could be holding a new born child or looking out over the Grand Canyon. Psalm 19 (vv. 1-6) tells us that when we see the glory of God in the creation we are struck because the creation reflects the creator. We see God in creation because He is the creator; in the same way that we see the moon only because it reflects the sun.

Hearing the Hebrew: כְּבוֹד kâbôwd, kaw-'bode'; rarely כְּבוֹד kâbôd; properly, weight, but only figuratively in a good sense, splendor or copiousness:—glorious(-ly), glory, honour(-able). abundance, honor, glory

Peak at the Greek: δόξα - 'glorify'

- to think, suppose, be of opinion
- to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
- to honor, do honor to, hold in honor
- to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendor
 - to impart glory to something, render it excellent
 - to make renowned, render illustrious
 - to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged

2. On Sunday, Pastor Jeff read a list of questions written by Eric Liddell. Take a look at the following questions:

- Are you ready to obey God, even if it means loss of face?
- Will you follow God, even if it means personal financial loss or being laughed at?
- Will all this sacrifice be joyful sacrifice?
- Are you willing to obey what the Bible clearly teaches, whether you like it or not?
- Are you willing to trust God with anything He sends into your life, whether you understand it or not?

- Which one of these is the most challenging for you? Why?

The goal with this question is to get your group to begin to wrestle with the fact that our shortcomings in terms of obedience to God are inextricably tied to our inability to recognize God's glory.

These are challenging questions and there may be some in your group who may get confused in thinking that if they cannot answer yes then they may not be "saved". This could be a good place to talk about the difference between the doctrines of "justification" and "sanctification".

For more on that check out this interview with John Piper and Tim Keller. (time mark 3:45)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/piper-and-keller-wrestle-with-sanctification>

Digging Deeper

1. From this week's passage, we learned that the Cross was the sign of Christ's glory (John 12:32). Read the passages about the Cross of Christ listed below and consider the following.

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)

Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Acts 2:23 (NIV)

23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Romans 6:6 (NIV)

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Colossians 2:14 (NIV)

14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 1:20 (NIV)

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 2:15 (NIV)

15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

- Based on each verse, complete the following sentence: "The cross is _____."

A follow up question could be "Based on what we have read about the Cross how would you answer someone who asked "how does the Cross glorify Christ?"

2. We often struggle to view life's problems, challenges, and circumstances from God's point of view, yet it can be a big help in embracing these, if we can maintain an eternal perspective. How could the following passages help us keep our eyes on God's perspective?

Matthew 6:19-21, 34-35 (NIV)

Treasures in Heaven

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

- What are some of the challenges people face in maintaining an eternal perspective? Are there any of these you're struggling with?

It's not unusual for people going through trials to lose sight of an eternal perspective. Those who are able to keep their focus on God's sovereignty will be better able to weather trials. Consider Paul's words to the church at Corinth.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV)

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- How could the principles in Matthew 6:25-27 & 33-34 help us grow in our ability to embrace our current situation?

The key here is adopting an eternal perspective. It is tempting to consider ourselves temporally bound but the Scriptures say that there is no such thing as a mere mortal. By looking forward to an eternity with Christ we can cast our current situation in proper perspective.

-Can you think of any ways we can balance accepting our current situation as from the Lord, with the personal responsibility to make any changes that are possible? If so, explain.

There isn't one right answer to the question and responses are bound to be personal. However, there are at least three responses that will be helpful for most believers.

1. You may not know why God allows certain things to happen. But, you can know for certain, that the reason is not that He doesn't love you. The cross above all else should confirm that God loves us and the challenges we go through are not a result of some kind of divine ambivalence.
2. One perspective that might be helpful is that we should do everything possible and rely on God for the impossible. There may be some things we cannot change but there will also be things we can change and those are the things that should preoccupy us.
3. The knowledge that God loves us should tell us that if we had the information that he has, we would have chosen the same outcomes for our lives. If God is infinitely loving and infinitely wise, it follows that He has a purpose for everything in our lives, even life's greatest challenges.

Taking it Home

1. Is there a circumstance you're currently facing for which you'd like prayer?
2. Looking back over this week's sermon and homework, what's the most important thing for you to remember?