

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

October 28, 2018

"SENT" - Week 5

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the Church Office at 408.288.4115.

Reminder: Don't feel the need to get to every question. Use this resource as a guide but feel free to ask questions that may be related to the topic but have some special applicability to your group.

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 week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

My Story

1. On Sunday we heard about "Lee's" journey and how God used the story of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot to convict him. Had you ever heard the story before Sunday? What emotions does the Elliot's story conjure for you?

If you would like a refresher or to get acquainted with the Elliot's story you can check out [Through the Gates of Splendor](#) or view a film that describes their experience [here](#).

2. "Lee's" life was profoundly changed when he felt God calling him to "Get the word out." Have you ever sensed God calling you to share your faith?
 - Was it a specific call or a more general call?
 - How would you describe your calling as a believer?

The rationale behind these questions is to help you group recognize that every Christian has been called to get the word out and that God does prompt us in subtle and not so subtle ways to share the Good News.

Digging Deeper

1. On Sunday "Lee" spoke about how Jesus brings us to "fullness." Read again Paul's words to the church at Colossae (Colossians 2:9-10) and consider the following questions:
 - In v. 9 Paul writes, "In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"... how would you explain this to someone who has little or no exposure to the Christian claims?

This is a foundational verse that supports the Christian doctrine of the incarnation. Simply stated this doctrine holds that Christ is God in bodily form.

<http://www.veritas.org/tim-keller-anthony-kronman-incarnation/>

- What do you think it means to be brought to "fullness"?

The word for fullness here is the greek word plērōma. Strong's defines it like this:

- that which is (has been) filled.

1. a ship inasmuch as it is filled (i.e. manned) with sailors, rowers, and soldiers
2. in the NT, the body of believers, as that which is filled with the presence, power, agency, riches of God and of Christ

Scholars have debated the exact meaning for centuries but it might help to think of this concept in terms of God filling the mortal form of Christ. This is important because no other faith tradition depicts God as becoming human and dying in our place.

Digging Deeper

2. Read John 13:6-11 and consider the following questions.

- In v. 7 Jesus says, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." What do you think Peter came to understand from Jesus actions?

Though the Apostles were slow to understand the magnitude of what Jesus was accomplishing Peter ultimately understood that the "washing" he would receive wouldn't be a ceremonial cleanliness it would be a spiritual washing in Christ's own blood. He would later write: "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." (! Peter 2:24)

- In v. 8 Christ tells Peter, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Jesus is not referencing the physical washing, but the spiritual cleansing that he made possible through the Cross. Can you think of a reason why the "washing" Christ is referring to is an absolute requirement for a relationship with God?

If we are relying wholly on the "washing" Jesus provides we will have a profound level of humility knowing that it was Christ alone who saved us. If on the other hand we try to wash our selves, we will be filled with pride by the mistaken notion that we are saved by our actions. Therefore the difference between the saved and unsaved is not the same as the difference between good and sinful people, it is the difference between humble and proud people.

A follow up question might be "Why do you think some people have a hard time accepting this?"

- Jesus is indicating that forgiveness of sins is a crucial first step for believers who want to be effective. See if your group can think of any reasons why receiving and understanding grace are important first steps if we are going to serve others.

There are many acceptable answers to this question. A few of them could include:

1. The humility that comes from a complete reliance on Christ will make us far more capable of compassion for others who are far from God.
 2. By reflecting on the Gospel we can, through the Spirit, divest ourselves of pride which gives rise to all other sins.
 3. It is entirely possible to view serving others as a way of eating your salvation. This can cause us to serve with the wrong attitude or to become prideful about our service.
3. In Colossians 4:3 Paul asked the Colossians to pray for an open door for him to get the word out. For some of us, the thought of an open door causes fear, because we're not sure we know what to do once the door is open. We fear rejection, not feeling knowledgeable enough, or not having an answer to someone's questions. How could the following verses help give confidence to someone who is fearful of witnessing to others?

Luke 12:11-12 (NIV)

11 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

The Spirit still intervenes in the lives of believers in all sorts of circumstances. Sadly, many believers have never experienced the Spirit leading as they share the Gospel. If we can muster a little courage and obedience and share our faith, God will empower you in all kinds of ways.

Matthew 10:19-20 (NIV)

19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

See above.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

An ambassador is someone who is a foreign citizen residing in a country that is not theirs in order to influence that culture towards their values. What Paul is trying to convey is that there is an element of the Christian's life that is not unlike being a foreign diplomat.

We should always be seeking to build bridges with our neighbors in a way that communicates the values of heaven.

- How aware are you at recognizing a potentially open door?

This question is geared to be introspective. The goal is for your group to understand that God will give them an "open door" and that there is an aspect of obedience which is simply recognizing the opportunities when God creates them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Remind your group that there is a Membership Class after service on Nov 18. To sign up call the office, use your Communication Card, or email info@cbclife.org

TAKING IT HOME

1. Think of the people God has put in your life. Ask this question: Is there an open door before me right now?
2. Write down the names of anyone in your life that you feel like God may be calling you to share with. Commit to praying for these people and watch for an "open door".