

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

November 4, 2018

"SENT" - Week 6

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

This question is 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. This question might take some time to get through but it will be important for those who struggled to understand a key concept. Do not feel the need to move past this too quickly.

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. Pastor Jeff mentioned that behavior is most often caught rather than taught. Can you think of any principles about love, positive or negative, you caught from your family or close friends growing up that have influenced how you love others today?

This question is intended to remind people that Jesus, in washing his disciples feet, used a picture to say 1000 words. His behavior was an incredibly effective teaching device. This should also help us to realize how much our actions communicate as well as influence those around us.

2. This past Sunday, Pastor Jeff taught that real love is not exemplified by believing "you meet my needs" but it is displayed in the sentiment "I meet your needs". Have you ever been in a relationship where one of these attitudes was clearly displayed? What was that like?

All relationships are characterized by utility to some extent. However, Jesus is calling us to something much deeper and more sacrificial. He is calling us to serve people with no interior motives other than that persons ultimate good. If we can consider some past relationships we may be able to find positive and negative examples of this concept.

3. We learned that Jesus covered our sin on the cross and that he did not do it begrudgingly. Hebrews tell us that it was "for the joy set before him that he endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2). Can you recall a situation where it was a challenge to serve someone else with enthusiasm?

Sometimes the people who need the most help are the ones that are most difficult to serve. We naturally tend to want to love and honor those who are lovely and who we enjoy being around. Jesus' example in John 13 indicates that we are called to a much deeper love than our culture would indicate and that we are to direct that love towards the people who we might ordinarily have nothing to do with.

Digging Deeper

1. We heard this weekend that followers of Jesus are dearly loved children. Just like in our earthly family, being a child of God comes with a host of benefits and responsibilities. What encourages you or challenges you in the following passages about the benefits and responsibilities of being a child of God?

1 John 3:1-3 (NIV)

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Hebrews 12:1-7 (NIV)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 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. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6

because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.[a]

6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,[b] Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

2. Pastor Jeff mentioned that our example of how to love is Jesus. His love for others is reflected in his willingness to be interrupted by needy people as he traveled about. What do you notice about how he handled those interruptions from the following passages?

Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

It's easy to think interruptions mostly involve physical needs but they can actually take a variety of forms. What kinds of interruptions besides physical needs might you encounter in your world?

We will likely face interruptions in our schedule do to people with needs. However, the needs we are more likely to encounter are emotional or relational. This could mean being a friend to someone who is going through a trying time or making the time for reconciliation with someone with who you may have quarreled.

What can distract you from noticing the needs that motivate the interruptions?

There is not one. Right answer to this question. Some potential responses could be; itinerancy, business, self-centeredness. The goal of the question is to help us recognize the attitudes and values that will prevent us from loving others the way Jesus commanded.

Can you think of any reasons why it would be okay to ignore an interruption rather than respond to it?

We have to be wise and able to recognize something God is calling us to as opposed to something which will ultimately distract from our mission to share the Gospel with others.

3. Being told that we need to imitate Jesus can often feel like we're being asked to do something that seems impossible. We wonder, "How can we expect to be able to act like the sinless Savior of the world?" What insights and encouragement do the following passages provide for why imitating Jesus is not impossible nor is it something we have to accomplish by sheer determination alone?

John 15:1-8 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my,

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

John 16:7 (NIV)

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Can you think of anything specific that you can do to help you experience more of God's power to love and live like Jesus?

There are many acceptable answers to this question. When we worship, pray or read the Scriptures we are asking the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with the love of God. When we meditate on the love Jesus has for us we tap into an unlimited supply. If our hearts are full, we can give to others out of an excess.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is there anything from this week's sermon or study that you need to remember or apply?
2. Is there someone you're struggling to love and you'd like prayer for that situation?