

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

November 18, 2018

"SENT" - Week 8

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.

With only one week in the semester you should already have your fellowship event planned. Some groups are having a potluck, while others are organizing an outing. Whatever your event it should be something that the people in your group will enjoy.

Our groups will be taking a break for the holidays. While you may still want to schedule a get together during this time we would strongly encourage all group leaders to take a break so they can recharge for the Winter Semesters which is scheduled to begin the week of February 3rd.

Quick Review

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. If you were to compare the image of Jesus you heard about this weekend with the image of him you had when you were growing up, how would they compare?

What's been the biggest influence on how your image of Jesus has changed?

2. On Sunday we saw Peter's two reactions to Jesus (Luke 5 & John 21). Have you ever responded to Jesus either by saying "flee from me" or by running (or swimming) towards Him?

Can you recall a time when your response to Jesus was tepid?

Digging Deeper

3. It can be humbling when we realize Jesus takes us, flaws and all and gives us a new identity. This truth impacts everyone differently but could be hard to embrace if you feel undeserving. How could the following verses help someone who is struggling to embrace their new identity in Christ?

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

1 John 5:1-5 (NIV)

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Galatians 2:20, One answer way to answer could be that Christ living in us. Another aspect of this verse which should encourage us is the knowledge that the Son of God loves us and gave his life for us.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 vv 21 speaks to the fact that it is God who is responsible for our faith and ultimate destiny. vv. 22 God has "set his seal of ownership" on us and that His Spirit in us is proof of our ultimate destiny.

1 John 5:1-5 vv 3 his commands are not burdensome. vv. 4 He has overcome the world vv. 5 because we are God's children we too overcome the world.

Which one of these verses is most meaningful to you and why?

2. This weekend we learned that because of Jesus, true intimacy with God is possible. Though we know it is a possibility, few people are satisfied with the level of intimacy they have with God. Consider the following passages and see if you can discern how they inform our understanding of how we can have this kind of intimacy.

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV)

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

John 15:15 (NIV)

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

James 4:8 (NIV)

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Hebrews 10:19-22

John 15:15

Romans 5:8

James 4:8

3. Study after study reveal that modern people (even self proclaimed believers) are attending church less and less. However, the Bible confirms again and again the importance of real, deep community for believers. What do the following passages tell us about Gospel shaped community and why it is important?

Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Matthew 18:20, Romans 15:5, Romans 16:7, Romans 14:1

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Romans 15:5 (NIV)

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,

Romans 16:7 (NIV)

7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

Romans 14:1 (NIV)

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

Romans 12:4-5 - Paul writes, "each member belongs to all the others." If we are not investing in Christian community we are actually depriving the other Christians of your contributions. The church is better with you in it!

1 Corinthians 1:10 - This passage isn't saying we shouldn't argue or debate. It is saying that we dare not let anything come between us as Christians that would divide a community. Like a family we can have our differences but we should be of one mind in regards to the Gospel.

* You can consult our Statement of Faith at cbclife.org to refresh on the essential doctrines Crossroads affirms.

*NOTES

Matthew 18:20 - The context of this verse shows is forgiveness to heal a broken relationship. Jesus tells us that when believers work towards reconciliation that is attended by a supernatural power. This should give us confidence in restoring the most broken of relationships.

Romans 15:5 "endurance" and "encouragement" are the two key words in this verse. God knew that relationships with other believers are not going to be easy. So many people in the church have given up far too easily when it comes to forgiving and restoring. It is a blessing that these things come from God and that we are not on our own.

Romans 16:7 Paul had forged significant bonds with these women who he was imprisoned with. Having close Christian friends may enable you to walk through hardships with others who can encourage and strengthen you.

Romans 14:1 A good church should be home to people across a wide spectrum of faith. Crossroads is a church for believers as well as skeptics. We must be mindful that people need time to grow in faith so we can respond to skeptics or those new to the faith with grace so we can help them grow.

4. Understanding who we are in God's eyes and his love and acceptance of us, is foundational to understanding how to love and accept others. As you read each verse below, jot down what it says about God's love and acceptance.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Matthew 10:29-31 (NIV)

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

John 3:16 (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

27

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

13

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Think of a person you have a hard time accepting (don't write down or say their name!). Would it make any difference if you applied these verses to them? If so, explain.

The goal of this question is to help us understand that being the recipients of grace we should understand the various aspects of forgiveness better than most.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Pray for the first person that came to mind when you considered question 4.
2. Read the 23 Psalm and reflect on knowing God as your "shepherd".