

Messiah 2020: Week 3

A Better Foundation: Free to Serve

Scripture Memory of the Month

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Psalm 34:8

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Group Leaders, please read this note from Teaching Team out loud:

The goal of discussion during this series is not to publicize or argue for our personal political perspective, but to allow the Scriptures to inform and where necessary, reshape our understanding and our approach to politics. As we discuss these questions let's not forget Jesus died on the cross for us to be adopted into God's family and we are brothers and sisters to one another. That is both our starting point and our conclusion for discussion each week. Let's all pray that God will form us into faithful followers of Jesus who represent Him well in the way we approach politics.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8

How does having Christ as our cornerstone make our approach to politics/government different from those who do not have him as their foundation?

What are some other foundations that you know others to have or that you used to have prior to Christ?

How do you think this cause practical differences when we discuss morality and justice (what is good or bad / right or wrong)?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12

What does this passage say about our identity? Who are we in Christ?

How does our identity change our actions?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17

Peter says we are “free”. Why? What does that mean?

How can we live as servants of God when it comes to engaging in politics/government?

3) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

Pray:

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.