

Soul Care

Week 2: Deep Idols and Functional Saviors

Scripture Memory of the Month

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
Proverbs 27:6*

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 AND ENGAGE

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).

Read John 4:1-30

What stands out to you from this passage?

What does this passage tell us about Jesus?

On Sunday we discussed the topic of Functional Saviors and Deep Idols. Have someone in your group briefly explain these two concepts.

Is there anything from your life that has worked as a "functional savior" that you've gone back to over and over again the way the woman in this story has with her romantic relationships?

As we identify potential "functional saviors" take a moment to answer the question: What do I believe it will provide for me? What am I hoping it will secure for me?

Consider the Deep Idols Chart Below - which one of these deep idols do you think you're most likely to struggle with? How have you seen it show up in your desires and behaviors?

Deep Idol Chart

Deep Idol	My life only has meaning or purpose if I...	My worst nightmare is...	People around me may feel...	My <u>problem</u> <u>emotion</u> is...
Power	Have success, influence or win.	Humiliation	Used	Anger
Approval	Have affirmation, relationships or feel loved.	Rejection	Smothered	Cowardice
Comfort	Have freedom, privacy and no stress.	Stress, Demands	Neglected	Apathy
Control	Have self-discipline, certainty and standards.	Uncertainty	Unloved	Worry

Here are several ways you can help your group grow in seeing how Jesus is better than idols:

- While in your group ask: "How does Jesus offer you true comfort, true control, true approval, or true power?"
- During confession, ask the person "What are you forgetting or failing to believe about the gospel that led you to that sin?" "What do you believe _____ will provide for you?" "How are you expecting this action to save you or fulfill you?"
- Make it a habit to ask the group: "How do you need the gospel this week? What truths do you need to be reminded of?" Then after someone shares, make sure someone preaches the gospel to them.

Take a moment as a group and help each other see how Jesus is better and more fulfilling than the things we choose to pursue.

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 you be intentionally living on mission given your current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can intentionally build with this week? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

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.