

Small Group News

Family Nt (Rialto Menu: BBQ): Wed December 18th
Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday December 24th
Christmas Day Service (Rialto): Wednesday December 25th
Pray for: Christmas Services; your small group

Small Group Questions

For the week of December 15th, 2019

Hope (Part 3)

Main Text: Luke 7:36-50

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the month of December, the teaching series will focus on Hope that is an anchor for our lives and how biblical hope is more than simply wishing.

The focus of the week: **Hope in the Shame**

QUICK REVIEW

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. Share about a time in your life when you felt embarrassed. Was it something you did, or something you said? How painful is that memory still? What would you do differently if you could re-live that moment?
2. Where will you be spending Christmas this year? Will it be a stressful time, anxious time, or a time you look forward to? Why? What is the best and worst parts of Christmas for you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read: Genesis 3:1-8

What was the cause Adam and Eve's guilt? What caused their shame? What is the difference? What was their reaction to their shame? How does that compare to your experiences with guilt and shame? Give some examples.

Read: Luke 7:41-47

Why do you think that Simon couldn't "see" the woman or her heart? What keeps us from seeing people the way God sees them? Are there people in your life who God wants you to see? Are there people in your life you wish could "see" you?

Read: John 8:1-11

How does reading/hearing this story from Jesus' life make you feel in regards to how He sees people? How does that differ from Simon's view of the woman described in Luke 7? What was Jesus' approach to the Women's shame? What does that tell you about how he would treat your shame?

Read: 1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 2:10; John 1:12

What do these verses tell you about your identity in Christ? How do they help you deal with shame? Do any give you hope? What would you say to someone who is wrestling with shame who knows Christ? What about someone who doesn't know Jesus?

TAKING IT HOME

Someone once suggested that Guilt is what someone has done (I failed). Shame, on the other hand, is who someone is, (I am a failure). Guilt can certainly knock us down; but Shame is crippling. You heard this week that, “The Deeper the Shame, the Greater the Hope.” Finding Hope in the Shame starts with 1. Acknowledging the need we have for Jesus; then, 2. Taking a step toward God; and finally, 3. Receiving God’s Grace.

The question is have you done that? Have you spent time with God and honestly acknowledged your need for Him? Have you taken steps toward God? And are you embracing God’s grace? When you do, you no longer have to be defined by your worst day, worst decision, or worst moment. You can begin to experience Jesus’ peace in your life. Take some time this week and invest in your relationship with Jesus. Spend time with Him; even if that will result in tears; even if others will laugh or discourage you; and even if you don’t fully understand what you are doing. The point is to reconnect with the Savior this week and let Him define who you are, not your past.

GROUP PRAYER

→

→

→