

Small Group News

Family Night: Resumes January 15th

Small Group Connect Event: January 25th-26th

Pray for: New Teaching Series, Spiritual Growth Classes

Small Group Questions

For the week of January 5th, 2020

New (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the month of January, the teaching series will focus on Change. New Year's is often a great time for new things (new gym, new goals, new projects, etc.). We will be discussing four areas of change that will help make our New Year our best year.

The focus of the week: **Change of Heart (Surrender)**

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 if you have any resolutions, commitments, or goals for 2020. Why do you think so many goals go unrealized? What are some excuses people make for not following through on goals? Do you think it's healthier to set New Year's goals or not have any at all? Explain.
2. In this week's message you heard that, "**God has to do something new IN you before he does something new WITH you.**" Share something in your life that is different now that you follow Jesus than it was before you followed Him. Now share if there is something that God is currently doing IN you.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend that our sacrifice has to be voluntary. We have to decide to be a living sacrifice based on God's goodness and mercy. What else does the bible say about God's character?

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 6:26; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 50:6

What do you think of when you consider the faithfulness of God? Share any instances in your life when you experienced His faithfulness. What other character traits come to mind when you read these verses? Share any experiences you've had with God that illustrate his character.

2. The big idea of this weekend's message was, "**in order for something new to live, something old must die.**" God will always require us to die to our ways in order to discover His ways. Consider the following:

Read: Hebrews 11:17-31

As you read through the list of the great names of the faith, what were some things that had to die for them in order for God to do something new? What were some of the new things that God did that stand out to you as you read these verses?

Read: Luke 9:23-25

How would you describe the phrase, “*Deny himself?*” What do you think Jesus meant by “*gains the whole world?*” What are some examples of taking up our cross daily to follow Jesus?

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

In what ways are people who are “*in*” Christ new creations? What is our responsibility once we have been made new in Christ? Since God makes His appeal to be reconciled to God through us, what must be destroyed in our lives to make the appeal more effective?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus asks for us to be living sacrifices. A sacrifice is an offering made to God set apart for the service of God; and whomever offered it released all claim on it, and submitted it to God, to be disposed of at His will. Most sacrifices die. Yet we are called on to be “*living*” sacrifices. This means our total surrender if we are going to follow Him.

All too often though, we are reluctant to give Him everything. Why is this? Could it be a trust issue? Maybe we just trust our thinking or our control more than God’s.

Take some time this week and make a list of things you have yet to surrender to God: your marriage, kids, employment, relationship status; or any other thing that is not completely God’s. Now pray over your list and ask yourself, “*Why can I not trust God with this?*”

Ask God, what will it take for you to trust Him with it? Find some scripture that may help in encouraging you to give it to God and let Him handle the results. Maybe He has something else in mind for you; or is waiting for you to lay it on the alter before helping you resolve it. Either way, use this week to consider where you are not surrendering to God.

GROUP PRAYER

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