

Small Group News

Family Night (Menu: BBQ): Resumes Wed. 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 12th, 2020

New (Part 2)

Romans 12:2a

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 Behavior (Repentance)**

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 what your life was like before you came to Christ. What were the circumstances that brought you to God? What changes did you experience once you made a commitment to follow Jesus?
2. In this week's message the focus was, "***Do not conform to the pattern of this world.***" Share some examples of this world's pattern. Which of your examples should followers of Jesus not conform? Are there patterns that are ok for followers of Jesus to follow? Explain. How have you managed the tension of living in the world while not being of the world?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend that we need new patterns to be new people. What does the bible say about sin and patterns?

Read: James 1:13-15; 19-24

What is the pattern for sin and death that James describes? Do you see this happen in your life when you struggle with temptation? What new pattern does James offer? Why does James stress "doing" God's Word - isn't knowing God's Word enough? Why or why not?

Read: Romans 6:8-14

What are the old and new patterns that Paul highlights? What are some practical examples of dying to sin? How do we sometimes still offer ourselves to sin as instruments? What are God's new patterns for the following common struggles for followers of Jesus?

Gossip – Matthew 18:15-17

Greed – Matthew 6:19-24

Greatness – Matthew 20:20-28

Hatred & Bitterness – Matthew 5:43-48

Self-Hate – Ephesians 2:10 & Romans 8:17-18

2. This example given this weekend for a new person was Paul. He was changed from someone who opposed Jesus violently to someone who died violently FOR Jesus.

Read: 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Luke 19:1-10

What are some changes you see in Paul and Zaccheus' lives? What do you think made the biggest difference when it came to their belief in Jesus? What were the most important things to the before their encounter with Jesus? What became the most important thing after their encounter? How does that compare to your experience or the experiences of believers in the 21st century?

Read: Acts 3:19

What do you think is meant by "times of refreshing" that accompany repentance? Give some current examples from your own experience.

TAKING IT HOME

God wants to do something new in each of our lives. But in order for Him to do something new there are some old patterns that have to go.

Take some time this week and consider the patterns of this world that are weighing you down the most. Ask yourself why they are so powerful to you. What is holding you back from trusting God with new patterns that He wants for your life. Consider the new freedoms you can have if you begin the journey to rid yourself of the old patterns (freedom from debt, from bad relationships, from bitterness, etc.).

Spend some time praying and giving the old patterns to God. Then spend some time working through new patterns that you can start with God. Include your small group in the conversation or at least 1-2 people from your group. Be sure to document the changes so you can celebrate what God will do.

GROUP PRAYER

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