

Who We Are: Week of August 30th

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off the topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask "How does this scripture apply to this?".

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble... Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

DISCUSS

- Why do you think God designed us to grow in community instead of isolation?
- What are some common reasons people avoid joining a group?
- Have you ever experienced a season where community helped you stay strong in your faith?

POINT 1: IN GROUPS, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO HEAR

Peter walked closely with Jesus, yet he still needed correction, challenge, and outside perspective.

Matthew 16:21-23 (NLT)

"You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

Matthew 26:40-41 (NLT)

"Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

Peter often thought he understood what was best, but Jesus continually challenged his thinking and helped him see a bigger picture.

Sometimes growth happens when someone lovingly points out a blind spot, offers wisdom, or helps us see a situation differently.

DISCUSS

- Can you think of a time when someone helped you see something you were missing?
- Why is it difficult to receive correction or feedback?
- How can a healthy group challenge us without condemning us?
- What areas of your life would benefit from accountability right now?

POINT 2: IN GROUPS, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

Timothy struggled with feelings of inadequacy and uncertainty, yet God had gifted him and called him to influence others.

1 Timothy 4:14-16 (ESV)

“Do not neglect the gift you have... Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”

DISCUSS

- Have you ever felt like you didn't have much to offer spiritually? Why?
- What gifts or experiences has God given you that could help someone else?
- How has another person's encouragement impacted your walk with Christ?
- What might happen if you stepped out of your comfort zone and shared more openly?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing
- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing “Please pray for my friend’s cancer journey”, include personal prayer: “Please pray as I’m struggling with my friend’s cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season”.

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.