

THE BEATITUDES

UPSIDE NMOOD

FOUNDRY GROUPS
WORKBOOK

FOUNDRY GROUPS

UPSIDE DOWN

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**TO KNOW GOD
AND MAKE HIM KNOWN.**



FOUNDRY GROUPS

2024 WINTER CALENDAR

Important Dates For Leaders & Hosts

GROUPS SIGN UP - DEC 31ST - JAN 14TH

COME AND SEE GROUPS - JAN 7TH & 14TH

WEEKLY GROUP CONTENT - JAN 14TH - MAR 23RD

SOCIAL / SERVE DAY - FEB 11TH

JANUARY

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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31						

INTRODUCTION

Hey Foundry Group Members,

We are so excited that you have chosen to be a part of a Foundry Group this quarter! Our team has been praying for you, your Group, and the conversations that will take place this fall.

We hope that you will take time each week to read the Word of God, and the devotions our writing team has put together, and to work through the pages in this workbook that correspond to the teachings. We believe that gathering together in a Christian community is a way for God to move in your life, challenge you, and help refine you to become more like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In this workbook you will find the following:

- **A Commitment Page**
 - This page discusses the importance and purpose of Foundry Groups as well as how they function. It ends with the five marks of a healthy group.

- **Guidelines Page**
 - Being in a Group is a commitment and one we hope that you will take seriously. Consistency is a key component to spiritual growth and we want your group to meet regularly, on time, and to study and pray with one another.

- **Workbook Questions**
 - You will find questions for our fall series Behind the Worship. The week is broken into four sections.

FOUNDRY GROUPS

1. Groups Questions
 - There are five to ten questions each week that are the “meat” of the content to discuss.

2. Digging Deeper
 - If you find yourself with time left after completing the Groups Questions, we encourage you to dig a little deeper. This section has more reading, some word studies, and other commentaries from biblical scholars.

3. Take It Home
 - We want you to not only read the Word of God but we want you to apply it to your life. This section is a time to reflect on all that you’ve studied and discussed and write a truth you will live out.

4. Prayer Requests
 - We want to encourage you and your Group to pray! This is such an important part of being in a Christian community, that we actually consider it the second most important part next to reading the Word of God. Write down your requests and the requests of your Group members and pray for them.

We can't wait to hear and see all that God does in your Group this fall. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at groups@foundrychurch.net.

Blessings,
Joshua DeVries and Chantal VanDyke

COMMITMENT

Small groups thrive on consistency and participation! The purpose of this commitment is to help you discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations, and commitments.

FOUNDRY GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Foundry Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE - Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this sharing can include planned "sharing questions," but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY - Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT - Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.

SERVE - Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is essential to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope you can find and/or be

FOUNDRY GROUPS

affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

1. Dates

We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____.

2. Time

We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.

3. Study

Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to hear from everyone every night and keep God's Word at the center.

4. Prayer

Praying for one another.

5. Homework & Attendance

Joining a Foundry Group requires a commitment to attend each week and do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more! If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or text _____.

6. Dessert

7. Social & Service Projects

Get out your calendars and plan a day during our Social and Serve week for your Group to get together.

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GROUPS CONTENT

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WEEK OF JAN 14-20, 2024

Spring Quarter 2024 Groups Kickoff

Welcome back to Groups! We pray you had a fantastic Holiday Season and were able to celebrate the birth of our Savior with family and friends. We are so excited for what God has in store for you and your Group this quarter!

This week, in addition to our normal content, we would like for you and your Group to read over the Commitment Page and Guidelines Page together. Whether you have been in a group for years or this is brand new for you, this is an important part of setting expectations that will allow you and your group to thrive and have a successful quarter.

Have a GREAT quarter!

Getting To Know You

One of the great parts of being in a Group at the Foundry is getting to know others better. Take a moment to jot down your answers to the questions below and be ready to share with your Group.

- Tell us about yourself...
- Would you rather have all traffic lights you approach be green or never have to stand in line again?
- If you had a free day to yourself, how would you choose to spend it

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- What are some small things that make your day better?

- As we start the new year, what are one or two things you're looking forward to in 2024?

- Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Looking Ahead

One of the reasons we meet in Groups every week is to gain the encouragement and support we each need to honor God in all we do and keep our focus on Jesus. Before you go over the Group Commitment with your Group, take a moment and write down your responses to the questions below:

- What are you looking forward to in your Group this quarter?

- Where would you like to see God grow you in this next quarter?

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- Is there anything specific you need prayer for, or is there any other focus you would like to have in order to grow this next quarter?

Digging Deeper

1. Have you ever earned something that you're proud of? Have you ever gained/earned something you didn't deserve?
2. How do you recognize when you're poor in spirit?
3. How do you try to earn your salvation?
4. In Luke 23:38-43, there are two criminals on the cross next to Jesus when he is crucified. When you have a trial or dark moment, do you ever feel like the criminal on the cross, asking "God, what are you doing?"

UPSIDE DOWN

Digging Deeper Relationally

At this moment is everything “fine”? Are there areas in your life that you would compare to a “dumpster fire”?

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray)

FOUNDRY GROUPS

WEEK OF JAN 21-27, 2024

Getting To Know You

One of the great parts of being in a Group at the Foundry is getting to know others better. Take a moment to jot down your answers to the questions below and be ready to share with your group.

- If you started a business, what would it be?

- What's your favorite nickname someone has given you and how did you get it?

- Who do you admire most and why?

- Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. To mourn is to grieve. To be deeply saddened and moved by something to the point of lament.
 - Why do we mourn? What things do we mourn over?

2. Read Isaiah 6:1-6.
 - Have you ever experienced God enough to be grieved at what is in you, your own sin?

 - How do you feel about your own sin?

 - Does being a good person help you look past your own sin? Why do you think that is?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10.
 - What is the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5
 - What do you think of verse 2? How do you think you would handle this situation today?

UPSIDE DOWN

- Our culture prizes tolerance so much that it has almost become a way of life, even within the Church. What does the Bible say about tolerance and how to handle sin?
- How can we lovingly encourage and push each other to become more like Christ?
- Is there anything that has touched your life and heart as well as triggered an emotional response of great grief? In your own life?
 - in the lives of others?
 - in the world around us?

Taking it Home

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn,

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for they will be comforted.”

We are often more likely to follow Jesus down Matthew 23 and condemn the sin that we see in others and the world rather than be grieved by it. Blessed are you when you mourn - over loss, over your own sin, and over the sin in the world, for you will be comforted.

- Who are 2-3 people you can pray for this next week?

- What are 2-3 situations in the world (local or global) that cause your heart to hurt, that you can pray for next week?

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray)

WEEK OF JAN 28-FEB 3, 2024

Getting To Know You

One of the great parts of being in a Group at the Foundry is getting to know others better. Take a moment to jot down your answers to the questions below and be ready to share with your group.

- Which unconventional animal do you wish you could have as a pet?

- What do you wish you did more of?

- What is your number one goal in life?

- Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

1. How would you define the word meek?
 - What does it make you think of?

Explore the following examples and write down any observations or points of reflection. How did these people demonstrate meekness and what can we learn from their examples?

2. Read Numbers 12.
 - Moses was meek, how did he relinquish his rights?
3. Read Matthew 11:29 and 1 Peter 2:18-25.
 - How did Jesus trust God’s plan?
4. Read Psalm 37.
 - How did David wait on the Lord?

Meekness is the effect of being poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3) and brought to mourning over our own sin (Matthew 5:4). D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones once said, “The man who is truly meek is the one who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do.” Meekness is having strength under control, it is not seeking to defend his/her rights or protect themselves.

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5. Can you think of a time when you held back your anger or fear and let meekness prevail?

- What was the situation?
- How was your attitude?

6. Is there an area of your life where you struggle to trust God's control? Where do you find yourself grasping, clutching, or defending?

- If you were meek with this area of your life, how would you believe/act differently?

In today's culture, it seems like the strong, aggressive, ambitious types are the successful ones. It causes us to question, "Will the meek really inherit the earth?". We fear that we will be ignored and that there will be no one to fight for our rights, we will come in last place. Have you ever had this question/fear come into your heart?

7. Is there a time that you can recall when the Lord helped you be meek in a situation and in the end He worked things out for your good?

8. Can you recall a time when you trusted God and released a circumstance or situation to His control and He brought about a change in His timing?

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Our future inheritance of the earth needs to take precedence over our fears and desires to assert ourselves over others during the here and now. Read the following verses; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 and 6:2, 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 20:4 and 22:5.

9. How did the verses above comfort you?

Taking it Home

What are some practical ways we can implement meekness into our everyday lives? Read the following verses and write down a practical application statement you will follow through with.

- Read James 1:21, we are supposed to respond to God's truth (his Word) with meekness. How can you "receive with meekness the implanted word"?
- Read 1 Peter 3:15. We are supposed to witness to others in a spirit of meekness. How can you witness in this way to others and who can you witness to?
- Read Galatians 6:1, 1 Corinthians 4:21, 2 Corinthians 10:1. We are to deal with problems between Christians with a spirit of meekness. How can you "entreat by the meekness of Christ" and "restore in a spirit of meekness"?
- Read Galatians 5:21-22 and Colossians 3:12. Meekness is not natural in man, but the

UPSIDE DOWN

result of the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit. Knowing this, what should you pray for this week and why?

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray).

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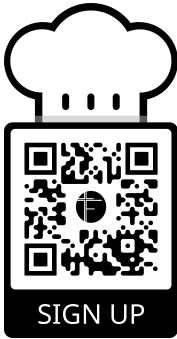
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WEEK OF FEB 4-10, 2024

Social/Serve Week

We are really excited to announce that Groups has been invited by Holland Campus Pastor Hugh Randle to participate in the Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off Launch Party on Sunday, February 11th at the new Holland Campus.

This is an opportunity for your Group to be both social and help serve at the launch of our newest campus. If your Group is willing to cook some chili and come help serve at the event scan the QR code below for more details.



Guest Speaker

It is our pleasure to welcome back Pastor Scott VanOostendorp to the Foundry this week. For this week's content please visit the groups website content page or scan the QR code below.



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WEEK OF FEB 4-10, 2024

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Getting Started

1. What do you find satisfaction in?

2. When are you most content?

3. What are some of the things in your life that drive you?

4. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
 - Do you hunger and thirst for yourself, others, or both?

We have taken Jesus' words and reversed them—we pursue happiness believing we will find fulfillment, but Jesus said seek righteousness and you will find happiness and fulfillment.

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- What are some of the things you chase to find happiness and fulfillment?

- How can you seek righteousness?

Read Psalm 63:1

In this Psalm, David speaks of yearning and his whole being “longing” for God.

- How does this Psalm make you feel? Are there any parts of you that are jealous of David’s relationship with God? Do you yearn or long for God’s presence? Why do you think that is?

In Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4 God teaches us that we will not “live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”

- How do you live by “every word that comes from the mouth of God”? What does that look like?

Digging Deeper

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.”

As we have examined in this passage and others from our devotions we know that we need God and His word to sustain us, as He is the living water and He is the bread of life. It is said our physical body needs “3 meals a day” but what about our spiritual bodies?

- How many “meals” would you say you feed your spirit each day/week?

- How are you feeding your spirit?

- If your spirit is not being fed properly, what do you think will happen to it?

- If you are neglecting your spirit, what is taking its place?

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Taking it Home

What are 2-3 things you would like to start doing to “feed” your spirit and grow it in a healthier way?

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray)

WEEK OF FEB 11-17, 2024

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. If you had to give one word to describe your hero, what would it be?
 - What about your best friend or spouse?
 - What about yourself?
 - If you had to describe God with one word (obviously He is so much more than a single word), what is the word you would ascribe to Him?

Read Mark 5:1-19 (pay attention to verse 19)

2. Can you give any examples of how you have been shown mercy?
3. Can you give any examples of mercy you have shown to someone else?
4. When shown mercy, or given freedom from the bondage in our lives, who are we instructed to tell first? (Mark 5:19)
 - Why do you think Jesus gave him this instruction?

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- When are we a better witness for Jesus, after we've accomplished something "on our own", or after we've needed God and He shows His strength in our weakness?

Look at the stories of the following characters who demonstrated mercy. What can we learn about mercy from them?

5. Abraham toward Lot (read Genesis 13:5-11, 14:8-16)

6. Joseph towards his brothers (read Genesis 37:20-28, 42:25, 44:11)

7. Moses towards Miriam (read Numbers 12:1-15)

Read Matthew 6:12-14, 18:21-35 and James. 2:13

8. What is the relationship between mercy and forgiveness?
9. Did the unmerciful servant fully understand the debt he owed?
10. Why is mercy so important?

Taking it Home

Mercy relieves the consequences of sin in the lives of others, mercy does not hide behind unbiblical morals or religious tradition in order to protect itself from costly service, and mercy is the fulfillment of the second great commandment “Love your neighbor as yourself”.

We need the Holy Spirit to move in us to have mercy for others. This isn't a one-time action, but a characteristic we need God to help us develop. Let's start by asking God for help to forgive.

- Lord, I can't forgive _____ on my own. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, and perform a miracle in my heart. By your great love and mercy, Lord, I forgive _____.

For each of the following merciful actions, write down a personalized application of how you could demonstrate mercy this week (or ongoing):

- Mercy to have compassion -
- Mercy to give -
- Mercy to pray -
- Mercy to speak -

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray)

WEEK OF FEB 18-24, 2024

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 5:8.

1. When you first read this verse, how does it make you feel? Does it bring you hope or despair? Why?

2. What are some things that cloud or muddy your "heart lens"? Are there things that you watch, read, listen to, or relationships that are keeping your lenses "dirty"?

3. When you think about the state of your heart, how would you describe it? Is it pure and holy?

- Here are some questions to ponder as you answer; What do you think about when your mind slips into neutral? What do you want more

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than anything? How do you react to shady humor, crude language, or immorality?

4. According to scripture, what is the earthly nature of the heart of man? (Read Genesis 6:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 15:19, Colossians 3:5)

If the “heart” is where we make decisions, create desires, and form conclusions on life, we can begin to understand why we’d want it to be pure. The problem is, we are a really bad judge of those things on our own. Read Proverbs 16:2.

5. Can you trust your own heart? Why or why not?

When it comes to measuring our hearts of purity, we tend to measure ourselves alongside people we know. We will often find someone more immoral, more dishonest, and/or more materialistic than ourselves. Such comparison hides the truth of our purity and the truth in our hearts.

6. Read Luke 18:9-14. What standard did the Pharisee use to make himself feel righteous?

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7. If we are struggling to accept the fact that we have impure hearts, whose life should we compare ourselves to?

Read 1 John 1:8-9, Matthew 23:25-2, and finally Luke 15:11-32.

8. Which brother do you identify with? Why?

9. Do you think the older son is justified in his behavior? Why or why not?

10. What are the results of the older son's resentment?

Pastor and author Timothy Keller writes:

“It is not [the elder brother's] sins that create the barrier between him and his father, it's the pride he has in his moral record; it's not his wrongdoing but his righteousness that is keeping him from sharing in the feast of the father...The older son boasts of his obedience to his father, but lets his underlying motivation and attitude slip out when he says, “All these years I've been slaving for you.” ...[B]eing faithful to any commitment involves a certain amount of dutifulness. Often we don't feel like doing what we ought to do, but we do it anyway, for the sake of integrity. But the elder brother shows that his obedience to his father is nothing but

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duty all the way down. There is no joy or love, no reward in just seeing his father pleased....A slave works out of fear—fear of consequences imposed by force. This gets to the root of what drives an elder brother. Ultimately, elder brothers live good lives out of fear, not out of joy and love.”¹

We need a NEW heart!

11. When you make Jesus Lord and Savior of your life, what are you given? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Read John 15:1-17

12. How is this new heart expected to grow and thrive inside our sinful shells?

Just as fruit is brought to market, put the rest of John 15:5-17 into everyday life. Replace the vineyard analogy with your common everyday workplace world.

Vs. 5-6 List the “fruit” that could be produced throughout your day when doing what you do while remaining in the vine of God’s care.

Vs. 7 What would you dare ask for while in this vine of God?

¹Timothy J. Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*

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Vs. 8-17 What “fruit” do you think God is looking for? (staying within the parameters of “Love each other”).

Taking it Home

How do you “fix your mind on Jesus” while pounding nails, going to school, working at a desk, or on an assembly line, or waiting tables, teaching children, taking care of the sick, planting crops, doing laundry, making meals, while changing a diaper, piloting a plane, driving a bus, patrolling a beat, kicking a ball, tending the elderly, or working a job you don’t particularly care for...so that...“You can present a Pure Heart so others can see God”? (Read Philippians 4:8)

Prayer Requests

This week we would like to encourage you to split up if possible (and if you're comfortable doing so) into two groups based on gender to discuss some of these heart issues and to pray for one another. Lean on James 5:16 during this time.

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray).

WEEK OF FEB 25- MAR 2, 2024

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Getting Started

1. What traits of your parents (or those who raised you) do you have?

- Are there any you have that you wish you didn't?
- Are there any that you don't have that you wish you did?

2. What are some traits of our Heavenly Father that you would like to embody in your life?

3. When you realize that you have a conflict with someone, what is your natural reaction? Do you run toward the conflict to resolve it, or run away from it?

4. When you read or hear the word "peacemaker" what does it make you think of?

Digging Deeper

In order to have peace with God we require a mediator, someone to reconcile us to God. Read Romans 5:1 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

5. How do we get “peace with God”? Who is our mediator?

6. Why is He the perfect mediator and peacemaker?

7. What are some of the characteristics we need in our endeavors to make peace? (Read Galatians 6:1-2) What other passages can you find to support your answer?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

With the peace we were given through Jesus, we were also given an opportunity to participate in bringing peace to others. People often claim they don't know what they are supposed to do with their lives, but we all have a ministry.

8. After reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, jot down 2-3 thoughts or reflections that stood out to you about peacemaking.
 - How does Isaiah 52:7 fit into your thoughts between peacemaking and sharing the Gospel?

9. If asked, “What do you do for a living”, what would you say?
 - What if all Christians answered, “I live to be a peacemaker, an ambassador of reconciliation for my

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Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Do you think that might start some conversations?

- Do you think you could/would change the way you answer that question?

Read Hebrews 12:14 and Romans 12:9-21

The second part of being a peacemaker has to do with how we live. Peace and righteousness go hand-in-hand in scripture.

10. After reading the scripture above, what are some thoughts that come to mind about how you ought to live your life as a peacemaker?

11. How can peacemaking be costly? Have you ever had an experience where pursuing harmony in a relationship cost you something?

Taking it Home

Are there any relationships that you need to restore? Have any situations or relationships come to mind during this study that you would like to pray over and ask God's help to restore?

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray)

WEEK OF MAR 3-9, 2024

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Getting Started

1. When you hear the word persevere what experience(s) come to mind?
 - Was the outcome of your perseverance worth everything you went through?
2. When you hear "Kingdom of Heaven" what do you think of?
 - Is it a place you long for? Why or why not

Digging Deeper

We learned this week that the promise of the Kingdom of Heaven is the key to perseverance. It is imperative that we understand what the Kingdom of Heaven is and who we are. While we belong to the King of kings (Jesus) whose kingdom will last forever, the present age we live in, which is passing away, fights against the expansion of Jesus' kingdom. While Jesus' kingdom has been established, it has not yet been fully realized and we will continue to experience persecution until his glorious return.

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Read Philippians 3:17-21

3. Was there anything that stood out to you?

- Where is your first place of citizenship? What does that mean to you?
- Does this change the way you view anything? What does it change and why?

Read 1 Peter 4:13-14 and John 15:18-25

4. If you decide to be a follower of Christ (a Christian) what can you expect? How does that make you feel?

5. What do you think persecution looks like?
- Is there any persecution currently going on in your neighborhood? At your work? In your family? In your social circles?

Read 1 Peter 2:20

We need to be clear about something, sometimes people (even Christians) throw around words and are not being honest and accurate. One of those words is persecuted. When you suffer because of poor decisions, bad behavior, or other sins, you are NOT being persecuted.

UPSIDE DOWN

- If you lose your temper with a coworker and have to face consequences, are you being persecuted?
- If your boss hollers at you to get back to work because you are witnessing to a fellow co-worker about Jesus on company time, are you being persecuted?
- If your boss sneers at you in the parking lot because you are having a discussion about Jesus with a fellow co-worker after business hours, are you being persecuted?
- If you are in a grocery store catching up with an old friend, and your conversation turns to the day you both met Jesus in a very life-changing way, and someone beams you with a large ripe tomato, are you being persecuted?
- If the group of friends you used to hang out with start getting together without you and stop inviting you to gatherings because you are “too religious”, are you being persecuted?
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When we suffer for doing wrong, we must bear the consequences, learn from them, and be thankful for discipline, but what about when we suffer for doing good?

Read James 5:7-11 and Hebrews 12:14

6. What instructions are given?

Christians have never been the most popular people in the world. The righteousness of Christians intimidates, their boldness annoys, their aversion and refusal to participate in sin infuriates, and their love for God is mystifying. The world will continue to reject those who seek holiness.

7. Is there a time or instance that you risked speaking out in favor of righteousness?

8. What do you do when “uncomfortable” topics like evolution, abortion, homosexuality, materialism, drunkenness, or spirituality are brought up in conversation?

- If you don't speak up and speak out for truth and righteousness, why do you think that is?
- Why do you think it is important to have a Christian community? How can we help strengthen one another?

Taking it Home

When we get to heaven, no one will ever regret having lived for Jesus and standing up for truth while we were on earth. We might wonder, however, what else we could have done to share the love of Christ. Martin Luther said it like this, “When we shall live in that day, we shall look with wonder on one another and say, ‘Shame, that we were not of better cheer, braver, stronger, and more joyful, to trust Christ, and to endure all tribulations and crosses and persecutions since this glory is so great.’”

- Pair up with someone in your group and practice sharing the Good News. The more we practice these the more comfortable we will get with telling our reason for the hope that is within us! If you struggle with what to say, google “Romans road to salvation” This is a great place to start.

- Is there anyone you’d like to share the Good News with that your group can be praying for?

FOUNDRY GROUPS

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray)

WEEK OF MAR 10-16, 2024

Looking over your Sound Bites and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Getting Started

In his message, Eric spoke of being directed by the Spirit to say hi to a new person at work.

1. Have you ever been prompted by the Holy Spirit to say hi to someone, go visit someone, call someone, help someone, witness to someone, or pray for someone?
2. Have you ever felt prompted by the Holy Spirit and not followed through? List the reasons why you didn't obey the prompting.
3. Have you been prompted by the Holy Spirit and followed through? List the reasons why you obeyed the prompting.
4. Are there certain promptings that are out of your comfort zone? Are you more or less likely to follow those? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper

Before Jesus left his disciples he gave them some difficult news. He told them He would suffer, they would suffer because of Him, they would desert Him, and He would be returning to the Father. He also told them this, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John 16:33

5. To what lengths would you go, to avoid "trouble", being hurt, or rejected?
 - If you've been hurt in the past do you find yourself going to greater lengths to avoid being hurt?

6. Can you name a particularly painful time in your life that you would never want to go through again, but yet now that you are on the other side of it, realize that you wouldn't have wanted to miss it for the world?
 - How would you go about comforting someone who is in the middle of such a hurt?
 - Does what someone else went through help you with what you are going through?

UPSIDE DOWN

Read Acts 5:17-42 and take some time to record things that stick out to you in the passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal new truths to you if this is a familiar passage or if you read it recently.

Taking it Home

Between this week and last week, we've spent a lot of time talking about how followers of Jesus will be persecuted, insulted, and hated. If you have chosen to be a follower of Christ this should be a life that you embrace because you know that your reward is in heaven and that the world hated Jesus first, so you are in good company!

- As you reflect on these last few weeks, are you living a life for Christ that will bring persecution?
- Or are you living that “double life” that finds you more like a chameleon and blending in, depending on who you are with?

FOUNDRY GROUPS

We won't be able to make it through this life and the persecution that is to come without the help of others. This is a time for you and your group to open up to each other and be there for one another. The people you are with for this study are people you should be leaning on, to pray for you, and to help you be accountable for your spiritual growth. If you haven't talked about these things in your group yet, this is your time.

Prayer Requests

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Encourage “popcorn” prayer and have everyone be involved (do not force anyone to pray).

WEEK OF MAR 17-23, 2024

Last Week of Content

It's hard to believe that the Winter 2024 Quarter is coming to a close for Groups this week, where has the time gone?! This will be our last week of content until the Spring 2024 Quarter starts. Below you will find information about our next quarter as well as a housekeeping item.

If you are planning to stay with your group, take a break, or try a new group in the Spring 2024 Quarter let your leader know that this week.

- Spring Quarter Sign-ups will be from March 31, 2024 - April 13, 2024
- Spring Content will begin the week of April 14, 2024 - April 20, 2024

Questions for this Week

You can visit the Groups website or you can scan the QR code for this week's questions.

