



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus Vulnerable, Courageous Love - Philippians 1:27-2:11 May 3, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Philippians 1:27-2:11

Questions

- Opener:
 - What have you learned about yourself during this period of sheltering at home?
 - How are you doing this week? What do you need right now? (Continue to refer to the Needs Inventory, see Additional Resources below)
- Share Experience:
 - When have you felt the kind of bond and connection with other Christians that Paul talks about in 1:27 and 2:1-11? What was that like? What are some ways you could pursue that kind of connection now, even as we shelter in place?
 - How has your experience of Jesus love allowed you to be more vulnerable in community?
 - Does having compassion on yourself come easily or is this hard for you? Why?
 - Recognizing that this is a safe space where you won't be judged, what tends to rise up in you when someone disagrees with you?
 - How have you experienced unity and love even where disagreement exists?
 - Do commands tend to motivate or de-motivate you? Why? How does it make you feel that we are not primarily called to obey commands but to live in and experience the life and love of God through Jesus?
- Dig Into:
 - According to Paul, how should the reality that our citizenship is first and foremost in the Kingdom of God impact our daily living? If we as the church lived into this reality in our day and age, what impact might it have?
 - Richard observed on Sunday in his message that often times people don't like the WAY we express our faith rather than the fact that we have faith in Jesus. Do you agree with this, why or why not? What might it look like to contend for the gospel with humility, love, and courage?
 - Why do you think vulnerability is the key to connection, unity, and humility?
 - What does Philippians 2:5-11 tell us about the essential nature of God? Why might it be significant that humility and self-giving is part of God's nature?

Creative Ideas

- Listen to the song “Come Adore the Humble King” by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa. What thoughts and emotions does the song stir in you? In the Kingdom of God, how is vulnerability and humility actually a mark of strength?
- **Exercise:** As a group, brainstorm some ways that this week, you can intentionally live as a citizen of the upside-down Kingdom of God and so make the gospel look good. Settle on one as a group and make a plan to each intentionally take this step in the coming week.

Practices

- Take the practice you settled on from your brainstorming exercise above and commit to living out Vulnerable, Authentic Love of Jesus this week in your world.
- Take a step of embodying the servant, humble love of Jesus and call up a friend from your Go Love card and ask if there’s anything you can do to serve them this week.

Additional Resources

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Needs Inventory - <https://www.cnvc.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/CNVC-needs-inventory.pdf>
- Ted Talk: Brené Brown - The Power of Vulnerability https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability?language=en
- Song: “Come Adore the Humble King” by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5hnwnBa9UE>

How to use this Walking in the Way Guide

1. It's important to know that there's more material here than any one group can cover in one night. Please DO NOT try to get through every scripture passage, question, and creative idea. That is a recipe for discouragement and burnout!
2. Do use this guide as a way to spark some discussion following from last Sunday's message. As the Community Group Leader, you know your group the best. Select which elements from this guide would be most helpful and relevant to your group!
3. **Scripture:** We will always give two or more passages of scripture that are relevant to the topic from Sunday's sermon. Ideally select one passage and stay there. Use only two at the most. You may want to have someone read the passage out loud and then work through the questions from the *5 Questions to Ask When Reading Your Bible* guide below. This is a great resource to print out and give to every member of your Community Group to help guide their own Bible reading at home!
4. **Questions:** There are more questions here than you'll likely be able to get through in one night. Select some questions you think might resonate with your group and throw questions to the group for discussion until one really takes off! You know a good discussion is happening when group members are interacting with and responding to what each other is saying and not just what is coming from you as the group leader!
5. **Creative Ideas:** If you feel it will help your group, select one of these creative ideas to help your group process and interact with the theme for this week. Feel free to add in your own creative ideas as well!!
6. **Practices:** This is how we grow in grace! Practices are what move a good discussion from merely interesting to life transforming. These sample practices are given to help you and the group live into the reality that was talked about on Sunday and that you interacted with in Scripture this week. **Choose one or (at most) two practices that you as a group will commit to doing this next week to live into God's truth.** As you come back next week, debrief how those practices went the previous week!
7. **Sample Schedule:** Here's a sample timeline for how to budget your time for a Community Group meeting. Keep in mind, this is a suggestion, not a rule to follow. **Do what works best for your community!**
 - **Arrival:** Catching up and Snacks - 15 min
 - **Intro:** See how everyone's doing. Maybe throw out an icebreaker question. As the group gets more comfortable, you can use this time to debrief the previous week's practice. - 10 min
 - **Scripture:** Dig into one passage from scripture using the 5 Questions (See Below) - 25 min
 - **Discussion** - 20 min
 - **Closing:** Decide on which practice(s) you'll commit to this week. Spend time praying for each other and those you sense God is sending you to - 10 min

5 Questions To Ask When Reading Your Bible - Worksheet

Whether you're a seminary professor or you've just recently picked up a Bible for the first time, these five questions can help you engage with Scripture. Try using it by yourself or with a group of people to read, understand and live out the Bible.

Question 1: What is going on in the passage?

- What's happening here?
- Who are the main characters?
- Very simply, *what is*?

Question 2: What do I like about the passage?

- What parts of this passage/story encourage me?
- What inspires, pleases or excites me based on what I've read?
- Why?

Question 3: What disturbs or startles me about the passage?

- What is it about this passage that reveals truth that may be hard to accept?
- What disturbs me or jolts, confronts or even offends me in my understanding of God, His Son, the world or my life?
- Why don't I like that?

Question 4: What does this say about the nature of God and/or the character of Jesus?

- What does this passage say about who God actually is?
- What does this say about the essence of his nature?
- What can I see about the character of Jesus (his patience, holiness, compassion, righteousness, etc)?

Question 5: What will I do with what I just learned in the next seven days?

- How will we respond to what we've just read?
- What will I do with what I just learned?
- How do I make sure that this wasn't just intellectual ascent? How do I put this into practice?