



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus

Unshakeable Faith

July 19, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Isaiah 35
- 1 Peter 5:6-11

Questions

- Opener:
 - Have you ever had a literal wilderness experience? Maybe backpacking or camping?
 - 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:
 - In what ways, if any, do you relate in this season to Israel's wandering in the wilderness?
 - This Sunday, Scott Newman talked about three movements in Isaiah 35, from Barrenness to Abundance, from Fear to Courage, and from Grief to Joy. Which of those movements do you most desire right now? Why?
 - Do you find it hard to name your difficult emotions and make space for them? If so, why? If not, why not? Have you ever had Jesus meet you in a space of difficult emotion? What was that like?
 - Are you able to discern any gifts from Jesus yet in this season? If so, what?
 - Knowing that the pattern of the Christian life is death and resurrection, what encourages or excites you about this? What is hard or discouraging about this for you?
 - Do you have a sense that God might be inviting you to welcome something in this season that you've been resisting? If so, what? How do you feel about that?
- Dig Into:
 - What unanswered questions do you have about Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 35?
 - Do you agree that death and resurrection is the pattern for the Christian life? Why or why not?
 - 1 Peter 5:7 invites us to cast our anxieties on Jesus because He cares for us. How do we do this?

Creative Ideas

- Listen to the song "I'll Not Be Shaken (Psalm 62)" by Wendell Kimbrough (See Additional Resources below). What thoughts or emotions does this song stir in you? How does the song help you understand how in Jesus we can be unshakeable despite the circumstances around us?

Practices

- In your quiet time with Jesus this week, practice saying the Welcome Prayer (See Additional Resources below) at the beginning or ending of your time. After a week, how have you noticed your attitudes, emotions, perspectives beginning to shift?

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>
- Welcome Prayer - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hDAY9uc7RbJ5EeLuZccn5ydoPl_wiyzb/view?usp=sharing
- Song: "[I'll Not Be Shaken \(Psalm 62\)](#)" by Wendell Kimbrough (For video click hyperlinked blue text)
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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?