



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus Biblical Manhood June 21, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4
- Matthew 7:7-12

Questions

- Opener:
 - What's your best memory with your Dad or the most Fatherly figure in your life? What made that moment special?
 - 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:
 - How have you seen men embody God's heart for men and fathers? How have you seen men twist or distort biblical manhood?
 - How did your own father display the Father heart of God to you?
 - How has God re-parented you since coming to faith? (i.e. how has God shown Himself to be the true Father, perfectly loving and caring for us in ways our earthly fathers never could) What are ways you still want to experience God as your True, Heavenly Father?
 - For any parents in the room, how do you want your kids (whether they're still little or whether they're grown and out of the house) to see the God in your parenting?
 - How do you respond when you have moments where you recognize you've failed or made mistakes as a parent. What is the Father's invitation to us in these moments?
 - Have you ever had a hard time calling God "Father"? Why or why not?
- Dig Into:
 - What is the picture that Paul gives for how men should love their wives (and by extension, their families)? What does this tell us about the role of men in a family?
 - In what ways does our world get manhood and fatherhood right? In what ways does our world get it wrong?
 - How does marriage (and family) picture Christ and the Church? If this is true, how can our families and marriages be missional?

Creative Ideas

- Listen to the Song: “How Deep the Father’s Love” by Austin Stone Worship (See Additional Resources below). What thoughts and emotions does this stir in you? How does this song lead you to think about the Father Heart of God?

Practices

- It is only when we’ve received the Father’s Love that we can then be agents of that love in the world, whether it’s with our families or on mission in the community. Read Matthew 7:7-12 each day this week. Journal through the week and ask yourself these two questions: 1) How have I received the Father’s love for me? 2) In what ways am I still resisting the Father’s love for me? Ask God how He’s inviting you to receive His love this week?
- Continue to pray with your Go Love cards this week. As you do, ask God to reveal who on your card He especially wants to know the Father’s love this week. Find a tangible way to love and serve that person as the week goes on.

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>
- Article: “Father, Fatherhood” from the Dictionary for Biblical Imagery - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b_JGebCy7gyw1mSQTh5RrRdR3MkqNSEF/view?usp=sharing
- Song: “How Deep the Father’s Love” by Austin Stone Worship - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z65YxhqY0_E

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?