



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus

Miracles - Coming to the End of Ourselves

August 30, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Mark 2:1-12
- Exodus 14:14

Questions

- Opener:
 - What was your earliest experience of coming to the end of yourself? How did you respond?
 - 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:
 - What's your typical response when you find yourself in a situation when you've come to the end of yourself?
 - What do you tend to ask or expect from God when you're in difficult circumstances?
 - How have you been pleasantly surprised by God in this current season?
 - What kinds of obstacles to flourishing in Jesus are you currently experiencing? How might you be able to anticipate them and ask God for the strength to overcome them?
 - How have you experienced your spiritual practices anchoring you in this season?
 - In times when you've served others, how has that changed your perspective on your own life?
 - What great things do you want to expect from God right now?
- Dig Into:
 - Why do you think it was when Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic's friend (vs. 5) that he tells the man his sins are forgiven? What could be the implications of this?
 - How does Jesus' power meet the paralytic as he comes to the end of himself?
 - How would you describe the authority of Jesus that he mentions in vs. 10?

Creative Ideas

- Listen to the song "All the Poor and Powerless" by All Songs & Daughters. How does this song stir your thoughts and emotions about coming to end of yourself? What light could this shed on the Mark 2:1-12 passage?

Practices

- Choose a spiritual practice that you've found has helped ground you in God's grace and mercy this season. Continue it this week or practice it every day this week. After the week is over, what do you notice about how this practice has shaped you this week? Is this something you feel invited to continue doing?
- We still have many people in Santa Cruz County who are in need of real, tangible assistance while they're evacuated. Many don't have a home to return to. Is there someone in your network of relationships who is in this position and who you can tangibly serve this week? Make that your practice 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>
- Song: "[All the Poor and Powerless](#)" by All Sons & Daughters

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?