



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus

Dangerous Prayers: Take Lord, Receive

November 29, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Philippians 3:1-11
- Matthew 13:44

Questions

- Opener:
 - What would you say you want most in life during this season of your life?
 - 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 desires have you pursued in life that have left you feeling unsatisfied?
 - In what ways have you found your heart at rest in God through your relationship with Jesus?
 - What things do you tend to lean on for a sense of worthiness, identity, and belonging in the world?
 - Have you ever felt pressured or manipulated spiritually to give up things you weren't ready to give up? What was that like?
 - What scares you about praying this "Take Lord, Receive" prayer? What excites you? What else do you feel as you think about asking God to make this prayer a reality in your life?
 - How would you express the deepest desires of your heart as you understand them right now?
- Dig Into:
 - Why does Paul call all of his previous accomplishments and identity markers, "loss" and "trash"?
 - What does it mean to be "found" or "discovered" in Jesus (Phil 3:9)?
 - If a church was full of people who could wholeheartedly pray the "Take Lord, Receive" prayer (See Additional Resources Below), what would that church look like in your opinion?

Creative Ideas

- **Exercise:** Encourage the group to make a list ordering their desires (You may want to refer to the article "St. Augustine on Disordered Love" by David Naugle. See Additional Resources Below). Have everyone make two columns on a sheet of paper. On one column, list their desires/loves as they would like to have them ordered. On the other column, invite them to consider the real order of their desires/loves. Remind the group this isn't about performance or getting it right. Jesus' faithfulness for us means we're accepted and we don't need to hide from reality. Rather, we're free to recognize reality and invite God's power to help us see our desires/loves ordered rightly. Anyone who feels comfortable may share their lists.
- Listen to the song, "Take Lord, Receive" arranged by Jon Niven (See Additional Resources Below). What thoughts and emotions does this song stir in you? What light does it shed on our passage in Philippians? How do you feel about praying this prayer right now, in this moment? Does it excite you, intimidate you, depress you, encourage you, etc?

Practices

- Pray this week's Dangerous Prayer every day this week. Post it on a card or a printout somewhere it will remind you to pray it daily. Notice as the week goes on, what happens to your deep desires as you sit with this prayer and ask God to work in you?

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: "[St. Augustine on Disordered Love](#)" by David K. Naugle
- Song: "[Take Lord, Receive](#)" Arranged by Jon Niven
- "Take Lord, Receive" Full Prayer - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xjyGEc9IzkO0chdLwGUukYzyNocDIFET/view?usp=sharing>

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?