

warrior

winning the fight for faith



Week 5: May 31-June 6

Share Life:

Review Guidelines: Share the importance of using “I” statements so that the discussion stays personal and relational.

Vision: Group is a great place to share life and be real with one another. Give each person an opportunity to share what is going on in their life and what they are learning from their experiences.

Question: Can you remember a time when you resented someone for something? How did you handle your feelings?

Share God’s Word (story):

Background:

Jesus was a man that many wanted to be around. He loved the lowest and the least. He healed all kinds of people. He was a masterful teacher, exciting to be around, and celebrated by those who believed that He was the Messiah. But there were always those who resented Jesus. They resented Him for what He did and because of His claim that He was the Son of God. Hatred and resentment ultimately led to the plot to capture and execute Jesus.

In our story today, Jesus has just been betrayed by Judas Iscariot and delivered into the hands of Pontius Pilate. Jesus would stand before Pilate, the chief priests, and elders to be tried by them. Pilate asked Him if he was the king of the Jews, to which Jesus replied, “You have said so.” But when the chief priests and elders asked Him questions, He said nothing. The governor was amazed by Jesus’ self-control. Pilate did not feel good about executing Jesus, but he was being pressured to give the order.

Pilate had a custom to release any one prisoner that the people would choose. So, he decided to place Jesus and a notorious prisoner, Barabbas, before the crowd to see who would be released. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Matthew 27:15-23
Read the story from Matthew 27:15-23

1. What sticks out the most to you in this story?
2. What does this story teach you about people?
 - a. What does this story teach you about yourself?
3. What does this story teach you about God?
4. Who do you relate to in this story?
5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you and how do you need to respond?

Share in Prayer

Pray for the needs of those in your small group that have been shared throughout your meeting time.

Recruit a storyteller for next week!!



Week 5: The 7 Essentials

Everyone likes to be noticed. When someone has a new haircut or outfit and they receive a compliment, it brings joy to them. Or when someone does an act of kindness not expecting anything, but people notice anyway and express gratitude, they are encouraged that others noticed. Sometimes, people miss an event or service and their presence is missed. It's reassuring to let someone know they are missed and it may motivate them to come back ASAP.

What about when someone isn't at small group or at church on Sunday morning? Is their absence felt? Are you doing your part to let them know they are missed? Or do you go several weeks or days without noticing that someone hasn't been around?

Chasing the strays is an important part of being a disciple of Christ. It helps us maintain relationships. By not chasing the strays, you can lose relationships altogether. Some people you will have to chase and chase with no end in sight. This is the heart of Christ as He would leave the masses behind to chase the one. He values every person. Below are some verses that show us the heart of Christ as he chased the strays.

Luke 15:3-7 – “So He told them this parable: ‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.’”

James 5:19-20 – “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”