

BACK TO

Basics

PART 2: MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

A LOVING COMMUNITY MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST



Back to Basics - Part 2

January 2022

Loving Community **MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

Dear Faith Bible Church,

We began this ministry year in September with our first Back to the Basics series. We focused on what it means to be a loving community. We studied the love of God, the Word of God, and the family of God. We delighted in the reality that God has loved us and called us to abide in His love by loving each other as we speak the Word of Christ to each other and help each other to live His Word. We enjoy the wonderful fellowship of the Father, the Son and the Spirit as we fellowship together in the church. Our prayer is that these basics that we studied in September and that we are studying now in January will continue to shape us into a loving community that is making disciples of Jesus Christ!

For the next five weeks, we will be returning to some basics that we pray will continue to empower and define our efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We will focus on prayer, church planting, evangelism, gender, family, work and the next generation. How can we be faithful to the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ? We must first depend on God and commune with God through prayer. Our efforts to faithfully make disciples will at times lead us to plant new churches that will be able to make disciples in new places. We must all continue to look to the people God has placed in our lives to see who needs to hear the gospel and be introduced to Christ. As we do all of this, our understanding of God's design in gender, family and work will strengthen us in our mission as His disciples. Finally, we will think about how we are working together to disciple the next generation.

May Christ use these growth guide lessons, the sermons and your discussion of these things with your brothers and sisters in Christ to cause all of us to be disciples of Jesus who are making disciples of Jesus!

For the growth guide editing team (Howard Amland, Tom Dudenhofer, Dan Jarms, Lana Pustovit, Jenni Rainbow, Marty Tornquist, & Seth Weber),

Nathan Thiry

SCHEDULE

Week 1..... January 2..... **Prayer**

Week 2..... January 9..... **Church planting**

Week 3..... January 16..... **Evangelism**

Week 4..... January 23..... **Gender, Family & Work**

Prayer

December 27-January 2: Prepare for Sermon by doing the growth guide

January 2 Sermon on Prayer

January 2-8 Meet with your growth group to discuss prayer

Learning Goal: Understand how our prayer lives as disciples empower us to make disciples.

Application Goal: Depend on God and commune with God through prayer as we seek to be disciples who make disciples.

Introduction

Colossians 4:2 says, "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." Romans 12:12 says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." As followers of Jesus we are to be characterized by a life of prayerful thankfulness and dependence. This is how we live as disciples of Jesus. By dependence on God in prayer we make disciples who make disciples. We abide in Christ, His Words abide in us and we pray to Him and He answers (John 15:7).

Jesus is God who entered the human race as a man. As He lived the perfect life on earth, He was fully dependent on the Father and the Spirit through prayer. If we are going to follow Jesus, living His life in the power of the Spirit, we need to be a praying people!

Launching Question

What are some of the challenges that all believers face in learning to live a life of prayer?

Luke 5:16 & 6:12

1. What do you see about Jesus and prayer in these passages? When does He pray, why does He pray, and how does He pray (*some of the how will be seen more clearly in question 2*)?

Luke 10:2, 11:1-13, 18:1-8, 22:39-46

2. What does Jesus teach us about prayer in the following texts?

Luke 10:2

Luke 11:1-4

Luke 11:5-8

Luke 11:9-13

Luke 18:1-8

Luke 22:39-46

Prayer

After reading Luke 11:9, some might ask why we do not always receive when we have asked, sought and knocked? If we look at the context of this statement that Jesus is making, we see that our heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. The good gift that God wants to give us is Himself. We might seek health or peaceful relationships or financial prosperity, but God does not desire that His children would be satisfied with material or even social well-being without knowing Him better. He has ordained that in this life, before we enter into the eternal state and the new heavens and new earth, we will have troubles and tribulations. Certain aspects of life will always be a challenge on this side of heaven! Through these troubles and tribulations, we can be confident that God will minister to us by His Holy Spirit who helps us to see and believe that knowing God is more than enough even when life is difficult, and we do not receive everything we desire.

Acts 2:42, 6:3-4, 10:1-4, 14:23

3. How did the disciples in the early church turn to prayer for their lives and ministry?

Acts 2:42

Acts 6:3-4

Acts 10:1-4

Acts 14:23

Ephesians 1:15-23 & 3:14-21 & 6:18-20

4. What do the following verses show us about the role of prayer?

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 6:18-20

Discussion Questions

5. Why is prayer so vital to our relationship with God and to our ministry to others?

6. What are some reasons God has ordained that prayer is so essential to our relationship with Him?

Quote from Owen Strachan in The Grand Design from page 57:

"A biblical man spends time with God and he is a biblical man to the extent that he does this. This is a strong statement, but a needed one. He is on his knees, seeking God's will and glory, praying for holiness, praying for his wife and children, praying for his ministry, praying for his church and nation. He sees this as his holy responsibility. He enjoys God's common grace gifts, but he structures his life so that he can pray and study Scripture. Those observing his life will say, 'He is a man captured by God. He is not obsessed with culture or sports or entertainment. He is driven, fundamentally to know God.'"

Application Questions

6. What are some of the things you normally pray for? How is your prayer life similar or different from what you observed about how Jesus, the early church and Paul prayed?

What are you challenged to pray for that you do not normally pray about?

What is one practical step you could take to begin incorporating Scripture into your prayers?

7. If you aren't praying daily (or more often), what do you think are the barriers in your life to being more devoted to prayer?

If you believe that you are devoted to prayer, what has God used to help you to be faithful in this area?

8. What commitments could you make that might help you to grow in your communion with the Lord through prayer and in your dependence on Him through prayer?

9. Spend time praying and strive to incorporate what you've learned from this growth guide so far.

The following is bonus material that your growth group shepherd may or may not discuss during your meeting. The end of each lesson will have a topic related to the gospel. If you have time to do this section as well it will hopefully further encourage and equip you to preach the gospel well to yourself and others!

Equipping Topic #1: The God of the gospel...

Gospel fluency is a way to describe how well you are able to think through the gospel for the sake of speaking the gospel to yourself or to others. As you rehearse the gospel and share the gospel and meditate on the gospel throughout the day, the Spirit works in your life helping you to live out the gospel.

We can think about the gospel in four categories. God, humanity and our sin, Jesus, and the necessary response. Greg Gilbert in his book What is the Gospel? unpacks the basic elements of each of these four categories. I am using his book to guide these equipping topics in this growth guide. At the end of each lesson we will look at one of them and in the fifth lesson we will think about how to live out the gospel. These four categories (God, sin, Jesus, response) are also how we teach the gospel in the membership class. Gospel fluency is essential for each of us to live as disciples who make disciples.

If you talk to someone in our culture today about God, most people have the idea that God is love. They are confident that God loves people and they may think that means that He is okay with them no matter

what they do. The idea of God being love, rather than being understood Biblically, is twisted to mean that God is just there to help us be a better version of ourselves, to reach some kind of self-actualization. Gilbert proposes in chapter 2 of What is the Gospel? that there are two things about God that everyone must understand if they are going to believe the gospel. First, God is the Creator. He has the right to tell us what to do and to rule our lives. Second, God is holy and righteous. He will respond with His perfect justice to every violation of His law. Gilbert summarizes this by saying God is the **righteous Creator**.

Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 2:15-17

1. We see in Genesis that God is the Creator of all and that He made man and woman in His image. Because God is our Creator, what are the implications for our purpose and our relationship with God? What do you see in these verses?

Exodus 34:6-7

2. In these verses God reveals who He is. The first part of His self-revelation is the part that most people in our culture like to focus on, often without fully understanding what it means that God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love, and slow to anger. What does God reveal in the second part of this statement after the “but” in the second half of verse 7?
3. We see in Exodus 34:6-7, Numbers 14:18, and Nahum 1:3 that God is merciful and gracious and He will punish the guilty. How do these two truths about God come together in the gospel at the cross of Jesus Christ?

Righteous Creator

Because God is the Creator, He has the right to tell us who we are. The meaning of life is determined by God. And as our Father, He provides for us and He has the right to rule over us and to direct us. We are accountable to God and owe complete allegiance to Him. God is righteous and holy. He will do what is just and right regarding all who rebel against Him and His rule. These two realities, that God is the Creator and God is holy and righteous, must be understood, along with the reality of God’s love, if anyone is to understand the gospel.

4. Spend time praising God for who He is, including the reality that He is a righteous Creator.

Prayer Requests

Church Planting

January 3-9 Prepare for Sermon by doing the growth guide

January 9 Sermon on Church Planting

January 9-15 Meet with your growth group to discuss prayer

Learning Goal: Understand why we seek to plant new churches (and make new disciples).

Application Goal: Make it our priority to be a church planting church by being steadfast in sharing the gospel and making disciples.

Introduction

Our mission is to go into all the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ by baptizing and teaching them to obey everything He commanded. The core of making new disciples is proclaiming Christ and being a witness for Him locally and globally. When there is no local church in a particular area to proclaim Christ, it is necessary to plant a new church that can make disciples in that area. Often, planting a new church that is focused on reaching new people even in an area where there are other good churches is an effective strategy for pursuing more evangelism and maturing of disciples.

Launching Question

What do you think are some important ways or methods for reaching people with the gospel?

Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20

1. What instructions did Jesus give us when He was preparing to ascend to heaven? What are the followers of Jesus supposed to be doing in the world?

Luke 24:44-49

Acts 1:8

Matthew 28:18-20

What might these directions look like in everyday living?

Acts 4:1-4, 8:4-5, 13:1-3, 14:19-23

2. How did the early church carry out Jesus' instructions to make disciples?

Acts 4:1-4

Acts 8:4-5

Acts 13:1-3

Acts 14:19-23

Discussion Questions

3. In what specific ways are we as individuals and as a church fulfilling our calling as witnesses of Jesus Christ to the world around us?

4. What role does church planting have in our mission of making new disciples?

Summary

We see Jesus commanding His followers to make disciples by proclaiming the gospel to people from all the nations, baptizing those who believe and teaching them to do all that He has commanded.

In the book of Acts as they go about proclaiming the gospel, people believe and are baptized. Then those who believe gather together and become the church. The church sends out missionaries to proclaim the gospel to more people and then to establish elders among those who have believed to lead the church.

Today we must continue planting new churches that will reach new people in new places by proclaiming the gospel and living out the gospel.

John 17 Jesus' prayer to His Father

The prayer Jesus lifted up to His Father, as recorded here, is a great example and encouragement for all Christians. It truly exhibited the personal communion of God the Son and God the Father. Jesus expresses some key truths here that are the basis of our mission of making new disciples and planting new churches.

5. According to John 17:1-5, what does Jesus request?
6. How does Jesus glorify the Father and the Father glorify Jesus according to John 17:2-3?
7. What does Jesus talk about giving to those whom the Father has given to Him in John 17:6-19 (especially in verses 8, 12 & 14)?
8. What does Jesus ask the Father to do for those whom the Father has given to Him in John 17:6-19 (especially in verses 11, 15 and 17)?
9. Who does Jesus pray for in John 17:20? What is His request for them in 17:21?
10. According to John 17:22-23, what is the result of those whom the Father gave to the Son having the same unity that the Father and the Son have?

Application Questions

11. Who are you praying for and seeking to speak the gospel to?

What are the barriers that keep you from sharing the gospel at times?

12. The planting church and the church being planted both need new leaders and ministers all around the church. What is your role in ministry at Faith Bible Church or Trinity Church? How are you using your gifts to help others to know Christ?

13. Spend time praying for Trinity Church in Spokane Valley and for all of our brothers and sisters who are going to plant Trinity. Pray that they would be one and that God would use them to bring more people to Christ. Pray for all of us staying at Faith Bible Church that we would be one and that God would use us to bring more people to Christ.

The following is bonus material that your growth group shepherd may or may not discuss during your meeting. The end of each lesson will have a topic related to the gospel. If you have time to do this section as well it will hopefully further encourage and equip you to preach the gospel well to yourself and others!

Equipping Topic #2: Humanity and Sin - How serious is it?

We are continuing to focus on gospel fluency, that is the ability to meditate well on the gospel and speak the gospel well and live the gospel. We are focusing on four categories of the gospel: God, humanity/sin, Jesus, and response. This week we are focusing on humanity and sin.

One of the big challenges to truly understanding the good news of Jesus Christ is not understanding the bad news of our sin. People in our culture, and even in the church, can easily underestimate how serious a problem sin is. Greg Gilbert in chapter 3 of his book [What is the Gospel?](#) describes several mistakes people make in how they think about sin and the problem it is for humanity.

- People confuse sin with sin's effects - they talk about the problem of guilt, meaninglessness, or emptiness without adequately understanding the sin itself which causes these things.
- People reduce sin to a broken relationship with some kind of peer or equal. They don't realize that sin is rebellion and treason against the King of Kings and the Righteous Creator.
- People confuse sin with negative thinking. While sin does involve wrong thinking, it is not merely thinking negatively about yourself. In fact, sin is actually thinking too highly of yourself and thinking less of God. Our sin problem is not fixed by thinking positively about yourself - that is a false gospel.
- People confuse sin with sins. When we think of our sin problem as just the sins we do, it reduces sin to something that is outside of us or a series of acts we have committed. Certainly our sin results in many sins that we commit, but the biggest problem is our sinful, rebellious nature that has sought to cast off God and live without Him. It is not just what we do, it is who we are in our hearts (Matthew 15:19).

Gilbert defines sin like this on page 48: “It’s the breaking of a relationship, and even more, it is a rejection of God himself - a repudiation of God’s rule, God’s care, God’s authority, and God’s right to command those to whom he gave life. In short, it is the rebellion of the creature against his Creator.”

Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 3:9-20

1. How is our sin described in these two passages?

Matthew 25:41-46, Revelation 14:9-11, Revelation 20:10-15

2. How do these passages describe the judgment that every sinner deserves?

Summary

3. How bad is our sin problem? How would you define sin? What does our sin deserve from God?

Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21

4. What has God done through Christ to be able to save us from our sin? Spend time thanking God for the hope and salvation that is available in Christ.

Prayer Requests

Evangelism

January 10-16 Prepare for Sermon by doing the growth guide

January 16 Sermon on Evangelism

January 16-22 Meet with your growth group to discuss prayer

Learning Goal: Understand how to speak the gospel to those with whom you live, work, play and study.

Application Goal: Each member of Faith Bible Church would be motivated, equipped and available for the work of speaking the gospel to others.

Introduction

Evangelism, or maybe the lack of evangelism in our lives, is often a big source of guilt. What is God calling us to through His Word when He says we are to make disciples of all the nations? One error is to make the Great Commission all about sharing the gospel with new people and to neglect helping those who have believed to grow to maturity. This approach really emphasizes trying to reach new people as the only reason that God has left us here on earth. The other error is to focus entirely on helping other believers in Christ to grow to maturity while ignoring the pursuit of sharing the gospel with new people.

God is calling us to focus on both speaking the gospel to new people and speaking to our brothers and sisters in Christ so that we can move towards maturity. Do you have people in your life that you are helping to grow in maturity by knowing them, speaking the Word of God to them and helping them to live a Christ centered life? Do you have people in your life that you are sharing the gospel with who are not yet Christians?

Mack Stiles in the book *Evangelism* talks about the importance of being **motivated, equipped and available** for evangelism. Are we motivated by who Christ is and what He is doing in and through us to speak the gospel to new people? Are we equipped to know how to share the gospel with others? Are we available to spend time with and speak to people who do not know Christ yet?

At Faith Bible Church we want to always pursue growth in maturity and speaking the gospel to new people. This is how we stay faithful to the call of Christ and the mission He has given us of being a loving community making disciples of Jesus Christ!

Launching Question

How can we work together as a team in our efforts to share the gospel with new people?

Colossians 4:2-6

1. What is Paul asking the Colossians to pray for him in verses 3 and 4?

Why does Paul ask for these things? What does he need?

2. What are the commands Paul gives in verses 5 and 6?
3. What does it mean to “walk in wisdom toward outsiders” and to “have “gracious” speech? Consider what Paul says about wisdom in Colossians 2:3.

Discussion Questions

4. What is the connection between “continuing steadfastly in prayer” and “being watchful in it with thanksgiving” and being **motivated** to share the gospel with people?
5. How much does having “open doors for the gospel” depend on us being **available** versus God giving people a willingness to listen to the gospel? In other words, is the key to “open doors” the Lord softening unbelievers hearts to be willing to talk about the gospel or is the key the Lord causing us to be available and willing? Or is it a combination of those two issues?
6. How can you be **equipped** to live a wise life towards outsiders with “gracious speech, knowing how to answer others”?
7. In what ways can everyone in the body of Christ participate in the work of evangelism?

How can our differing gifts and strengths complement each other?

Application Questions

8. Who are the people that you are praying for and with whom you are seeking to speak the gospel?
9. When could you or will you be able to spend time with those people you are praying for so that you can speak with them?
10. Spend time praying for opportunities to speak the gospel, for boldness to speak to others and for the ability to speak with clarity and faithfulness.

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Equipping Topic #3: Jesus – the Hero of the Gospel

As we continue to study and meditate on the gospel, we come to the climax and crescendo of the gospel story: Jesus! In our four part outline, God, sin, Jesus and response, we are now arriving at the GOOD NEWS that is the answer to the bad news of sin. Gospel fluency, the ability to speak the gospel well to yourself and others and to all matters of life, is dependent on a right view of Jesus. We must hold fast our confession about Christ in our hearts and in our proclamation!

It is vitally important to be Biblically faithful in what we say about who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. Greg Gilbert in What is the Gospel? emphasizes two big truths about who Jesus is and two truths about what He has done. Certainly there is much more you could say about Jesus, but these four truths are necessary and foundational to the rest. Let's observe these truths in some of the key passages in the Bible.

Jesus is fully God and fully man

John 1:1-3, 1:14-18

1. John describes Jesus as the Word (which is especially clear in verse 14). What do you learn about who the Word is in John 1:1-3?

What does John 1:14-18 show us about who Jesus is?

Luke 1:34-35

2. What do we learn in these verses about Jesus' birth and who He is?

Hebrews 1:1-3, 2:14-18

3. How does Hebrews 1:1-3 describe Jesus? How does this show you that He is fully God?

How does Hebrews 2:14-18 describe Jesus? How does this show you that He is fully human?

Jesus is the Messiah King

Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:32-33

4. God had promised David that his offspring would reign on the throne forever. What do you see about this Son of David's identity in Isaiah 9:6-7? What did the angel confirm in Luke 1:32-33 about Jesus?

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

John announced to the Jews that Jesus was the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Jesus Himself said on many occasions that He came to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45) and to lay down His life for the sheep (John 10:15). He is the suffering King who came to be the substitute for all repentant believers - those He would forgive and purchase to be His own.

1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 3:18, 2 Corinthians 5:21

5. How did Jesus take the wrath of God that sinners deserve?

Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven to the right hand of the Father

Romans 6:4, 8:33-34

6. What are some of the important consequences of Jesus' resurrection and ascension for all who trust in Him?

Summary

7. How would you summarize the most important things about who Jesus is and what He has done, and what He is doing now?

Spend time praising Him for who He is and what He has done!

Prayer Requests

Gender, Family & Work

January 17-23 Prepare for Sermon by doing the growth guide

January 23 Sermon on Gender, Family & Work

January 23-29 Meet with your growth group to discuss prayer

Learning Goal: Understanding the glory of God's design in gender, family and work.

Application Goal: Live out God's plan for us for His glory through our gender, family and work.

Introduction

Our mission is to be a loving community making disciples of Jesus Christ. To be a faithful disciple of Christ, it is important to understand God's design at creation. God created human beings in His image, male and female. God's design is that men and women would work together in the context of the family, the church, and society to know God and to make Him known. Gender, family and work are all beautiful aspects of the world that God created!

Launching Question

What aspect of God's creation most amazes you?

Genesis 1:26-31

1. God created Adam and Eve in His image. To be in someone's image means that you are representing their authority, their kingdom in the case of a great king. It also means that you are the son or daughter of God in whose image you are created. What commands does God give His image bearers in 1:28-31? What gifts did God give them to go along with those commands?

Genesis 2

2. Adam and Eve were created in God's image male and female. There are certain responsibilities and roles that God gave each gender. We start to see those taking shape here. What do you see? (Hint: see some of Adam's role in 2:15-17 and Eve's in 2:18).

Ezer (Helper in Hebrew)

God sees that everything He has made is good. However, He sees that Adam is alone and that is not good. He creates companions for Adam in the form of many different kinds of animals. However, none of those animals is a helper suitable for Adam. So, God creates Eve out of Adam's rib. She is the ideal counterpart, the suitable helper for Adam. That word helper indicates someone who has great strength to help another. It is used many times to refer to God being the Helper of His people. If God is a Helper, then the Helper is definitely not inferior to those He is helping. Helper refers to someone whose gifts are ideally suited to complement someone else's weakness. Some people have summarized the way women image God with words like nurture, partner, and invite. Women image God in all sorts of relationships with husbands, children, friends, and others by partnering, nurturing and inviting.

3. What do you learn about work in Genesis 2?

4. How does Genesis 2:18-25 describe the institution of marriage?

Discussion Questions

5. What are some of the ways that you see God's wisdom, goodness and beauty in how He has designed gender, work and marriage?

6. How does society tend to corrupt these things that God has created?

Application Questions

7. Write down what you can do to faithfully live out God's design in the following areas:

a. Gender

b. Family

c. Work

The following is bonus material that your growth group shepherd may or may not discuss during your meeting. The end of each lesson will have a topic related to the gospel. If you have time to do this section as well it will hopefully further encourage and equip you to preach the gospel well to yourself and others!

Equipping Topic #4: The necessary response to the gospel

When we understand the glory of God the righteous Creator, the gravity of our sin, and the grace of Jesus Christ, there is only one response: repentance and faith! We have been talking about the four-part outline of the gospel: God, sin, Jesus and response. Gospel fluency, or being able to speak the gospel well, requires a clear grasp of the necessary response to the gospel. We can summarize that response the way that Jesus does in Mark 1:15: Repent and Believe!

Repent

Like Isaiah 53:6 says, we have all turned aside and gone astray. As Jeremiah 2:11-13 explains, we have rejected God the fountain of living waters to make broken cisterns for ourselves. Because sin is fundamentally turning away from God to self, the necessary response to Jesus and the gospel is to turn from self to God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 describes how they repented by turning to God from idols to serve the living God.

Mark 8:34-35

1. What does Jesus say one must do to follow Him? How does this connect with what we have already said about what it means to repent? How is Jesus' call a summary of repentance?

2 Timothy 2:24-26

2. What do these verses teach us about the source and the cause of repentance?

Ephesians 4:22 & Colossians 3:5

3. What metaphors does Paul use to refer to the process of repenting of our old life?

Believe

What does it mean to believe or to have faith? Jesus says that all who believe in Him become God's children (John 1:12) and receive eternal life (John 3:16). However, James says that even the demons believe and tremble (James 2:19). What is the difference between saving faith and the kind of believing that demons and others who are still lost experience? R.C. Sproul describes three components of saving faith, which must all be present if someone has saving faith: knowing what the truth is, agreeing with the truth, and trusting the truth. The demons know the truth and agree with it even, but they do not trust. They do not rely on Christ. They do not submit to Christ. Gilbert in What is the Gospel? emphasizes that it is **reliance** on Christ that defines saving faith. We must see who Jesus is and what He has done (2 Corinthians 4:4-6) and rely on Him and Him alone. Faith is how we respond to the promises of God in Christ. We hear and believe Him, relying on Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9

4. What do you learn from these verses about the result of faith and the source of faith?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 10:9-10

5. What must we believe if we are to be saved? What are we relying on and submitting to?

Baptism and the Local Church

In Acts 2:38 when Peter tells the crowd in Jerusalem what they needed to do to be saved, he says repent and be baptized. Baptism is the public expression of your faith in Christ (1 Peter 3:21). Peter could have said repent and believe (demonstrating that belief by being baptized). When we share the gospel with people, we are calling them to repent of trusting in themselves and of living for themselves or whatever they are living for instead of God, and to believe in Christ, relying fully on Him and His death and resurrection. We must then call them to be baptized as the expression of their faith and to be part of a local church where they can worship and be equipped and serve. We are not accurately explaining the necessary response if we never explain that faith needs to go public through baptism and must lead to one being part of a local church. It is Christ alone who saves and faith is the only necessary response. However, that faith in Christ needs to be expressed in baptism and lived out in the local church.

Prayer Request

Discipling the Next Generation

January 24-30 Prepare for Sermon by doing the growth guide

January 30 Sermon on discipling the next generation

January 30-February 5 Meet with your growth group to discuss prayer

Learning Goal: Understand how parents and others in the church can work together to declare God's glory to the next generation.

Application Goal: The whole church would be encouraged and equipped to work together to proclaim Christ to the next generation.

Introduction

One generation proclaims the wonderful deeds of God to the next generation (Psalm 145:1-7). Parents are a huge part of this as they proclaim God's glory to their children (Deuteronomy 6). The whole church is meant to proclaim the marvelous deeds of God (1 Peter 2:9-10). We make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming His Word and His wonderful salvation to the next generation. We work together as singles, couples, families with kids, families without kids, mature believers and new believers to make Christ known to the next generation. We do this formally through our ministries and we do this informally through our homes and communities and all of life!

Launching Question

How have others besides your parents impacted your relationship with God and your growth in Christ?

Psalm 145

1. What do you learn from this Psalm about God that motivates us to proclaim His wonderful deeds to the next generation? Make a list of the things the Psalm tells us about God that encourage us to make Him known to others.

Deuteronomy 6

2. What is the main command that you see in Deuteronomy 6:5 & 6:13-16?

3. What are the people of God supposed to do to help the next generation to love God with all of their hearts according to this chapter?

1 Peter 2:4-10

4. What is the purpose of the church according to 1 Peter 2:9-10?

Discussion Questions

5. How does God use our proclamation of His excellencies to grow His church (both in number and in maturity)?
6. How can the whole church work together with parents to help the next generation know God and fear Him?
7. What unique roles can people who do not have children still living at home (or who have never had children) play in proclaiming the Lord to the next generation?

Application Questions

8. How is your heart of thanksgiving, worship and love for the Lord growing? In what ways are you becoming a person who is continually proclaiming the excellencies of the Lord?

9. How can you more faithfully proclaim the wonderful deeds of the Lord to the next generation?
10. To whom are you regularly speaking about who God is and about loving the Lord with all of your heart?
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The following is bonus material that your growth group shepherd may or may not discuss during your meeting. The end of each lesson will have a topic related to the gospel. If you have time to do this section as well it will hopefully further encourage and equip you to preach the gospel well to yourself and others!

Equipping Topic #5: The life of the gospel

We have been talking about gospel fluency and how the gospel affects all areas of life. Of course the first application of speaking the gospel is to remember how we have been saved from our sin and brought into God's family. Along with this it is of course the message that needs to be on our hearts and lips as we speak with others who do not know Christ yet. However, beyond this, there are many other ways that the gospel must be applied to our lives. We receive a new identity and with that new identity many new realities that impact all of life!

1. **CHILDREN of GOD** - Through the gospel God adopts us (Ephesians 1:5) and we are born into His family (John 1:12-13). As children of God, we are dependent on our Father for everything. We see this through Christ's example as the perfect Son of God. Read John 14:10-14 and think about how Jesus depended on the Father and how He commands us to depend on the Father. What are some of the implications for your life from these verses and truths?
2. **SERVANTS** - Through the gospel we become servants of our Lord. We see in Philippians 2:6-8 and Mark 10:45 that the gospel is our example that shows us that we must live as servants. Read those two passages and consider how Christ shows us how to live our lives as servants. What are the specific implications of the gospel for your life from these passages?

3. **IN CHRIST** - One of the most amazing realities that we have in the gospel is that we are in Christ. We have union with Christ. We are the temple of the living God (Ephesians 2:20-22, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We see in Romans 6:1-14 that the gospel truths we have been talking about are the very means that God has ordained for us to say no to sin and to say yes to God. Not only does God forgive us through the work of Christ and make us right with Him, but He is continually changing us through the work of Christ and our union with Him. Read Romans 6:1-14. What are the implications for your life because you are in Christ according to this passage?
4. **AMBASSADORS** - As those made in the image of God, we were created to be God's representatives. Now that Christ has called us through the gospel to follow Him, we have an even more clear way that we are meant to represent God. Colossians 1:15 says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Romans 8:29 says that God is making us into the image of His Son. As we become like Christ, we display who God is. We get to make Him known. The clearest way that we make God known is by proclaiming Christ as God's ambassadors (Colossians 1:28-29, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21). What do you learn from these two passages, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and Colossians 1:28-29, about how we live as ambassadors of Christ?

Summary and Application

5. What are some of your new identities because you are in Christ? What are some implications to your life that you want to remember and live out this week?

Prayer Request



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