

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Winter Semester - Week 7

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, and skip the ones that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) Are you observing Lent this year? If you are, what are you choosing to fast from?
- b) What is your most embarrassing story of 2023, so far? If you can't think of one, this year, what about in 2022?

PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

Read Mark 14:66-72

- a) Read **v30**. What was Jesus' purpose in telling Peter beforehand that he would deny Him?
- b) What do you think happened in Peter's heart to go from telling Jesus he would never deny him, to denying him three times in a short period of time?
- c) All four gospels share this story; it is humbling that Peter recounts this scene in his own record of the life of Jesus because he is candid about his shortcomings. How does Peter's vulnerability encourage and/or challenge you?
- d) Why do you think Peter followed Jesus to the High Priest's home while at the same time being fearful of his association with Jesus?
- e) Read **John 21:15-19**.
 - i) Do you think there is a connection between the fact that Peter denied Christ three times, and here in John, Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him three times?
 - ii) Jesus here affirms his love for Peter and restores him after his denial of Christ. Can you share a time when you experienced God's grace, forgiveness, and restoration at a time when you felt that you had failed to honour Him?

- f) Read **v72**. Jesus told Peter in advance that by the time the rooster crowed he would have already denied him three times. When the rooster does crow, Peter remembers what Jesus had said, and he breaks down and weeps. Why do you think Peter responds that way? Do you think it is significant? Why or why not?
- g) Read **James 5:16**. Take time to discuss this verse and its implications for the life of a believer, and a community of believers.
- h) Even though this passage is primarily about Peter, what can we learn about Jesus in it?
- i) Read **Proverbs 3:5-6**. Have you ever experienced a moment when you depended upon yourself and failed?
- j) Think about the statement: "God gives grace to those who renounce dependence on themselves." What actions can we take to renounce dependence on ourselves? What will ground us or strengthen us when we face temptation to depend on ourselves?
- k) After Peter's denial of Jesus he wept and felt convicted of his sin. In our own lives, what role does repentance play in our submission to Jesus? How can confession lead us away from dependence on ourselves?
- l) When we compare Jesus and Peter's differing responses to their questioning, we see that while Jesus did not fight, Peter did (**v47**), while Jesus did not run, Peter did (**v50**), while Jesus didn't defend himself or lie, Peter did (**v71**). What do you think about this direct comparison? Do you believe that Mark did this on purpose, or that this comparison is coincidental?

TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)

- a) What about Peter do you most relate to, personally? Bring this to the Lord in prayer.
- b) Is there an area of your life this speaks to where you need to make an adjustment? Write it down, and offer it to God.
- c) What are the obstacles you need to move and/or overcome to apply this to your life this week?

OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME

- a) Share how you would like to grow closer to God, and pray for one another.
- b) Pray that God will keep showing the things that keep you from not denying Jesus. (Fear, pride, control, etc.).

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW & GO

Care portal training: Join us on Saturday, March 4th, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Grant Memorial Church for the Ending Poverty Together Workshop and Plan to Protect Training. A continental breakfast will be provided.

This training is required for Care Portal Responders & others who:

- want to learn about providing respite
- want to understand their city and community in a new way
- want to serve through CarePortal by doing deliveries, making connections, etc
- want to support children as they walk through various stages of the system

Please register on the Grant website so we can reserve a spot for you!

Pine Car Derby: Race day is March 4th from 2-4 pm at Grant Memorial Church. Build a car as a team, a family, or an individual. Car kits will be available for sale starting Sunday, February 12th, for \$10. Please return your finished car and your registration card to the church by March 3rd so we can prepare them for race day!

Premarital Classes: April 13th at 7 p.m. For those recently engaged or planning a wedding within the next twelve months, we invite you to our next premarital class here at Grant Memorial Church. The five classes will allow you to hear from various marital experiences as you prepare for your big day. Communication tools, conflict resolution techniques, navigating relationships and sexual expectations, and many other topics will be covered. The classes will be conducted in a group style, with a couple of mentors coming alongside each premarital couple so that you have the support you need.