

Darkroom

Week 1 - Brandy Knutson

“Are You Willing to Enter the Darkroom?”

Icebreaker: Do you prefer your phone camera, DSLR, point and shoot, or good ol’ film?

Topics for Discussion:

- Read **1 Samuel 16:6-13**
 - Discuss some some verses or themes that stand out to you.
 - How would you feel as David in this story?
- In **1 Samuel 17, 18, and 19** we get snapshots of David’s journey to becoming King of Israel. For 14 years, David was in the “darkroom” of life—being developed into the man that God knew he would be in order to take the throne.
 - If your group is willing, pick one of the above mentioned chapters and read it together. Anything stand out? Would you have reacted the same way David did? The same way Saul did?
 - The point is that while we often are interested in our future, we don’t have the patience to be developed: we see potential, but lack the will to get there. But God has a plan for **your** life!
- Read **Philippians 1:3-11**
 - What does **vs 6** say about the “darkroom” or process that we must go through?
 - What do you think our role is? What is God’s?

Things to Consider:

- Whether it’s at work, school, or even just life in general, we gaze to the future and the promises that it holds for us. We long for the microwave solution: the ability to just get there now, without experiencing the growth that comes with time.
 - God wants us to be able to fulfill the promises he has for us, but we need to develop the character, skills, etc. to be successful. This takes time.
 - Should the darkroom be viewed as a punishment until you get it right, or part of the process?

Going Deeper:

- It is so easy for us to feel, as David must have felt at least once, that God isn’t with us in the darkrooms of life. That he has left us to figure it out on our own, or that we are in trouble and until we figure it out he won’t help.
 - We must fight that feeling with all of our will!
 - The darkroom is an opportunity to be developed by Jesus. What are some ways that we can be developed by God (hint: it requires us to stay close to Him).
 - Examples: read your bible, pray, serve, etc.

- Based on the ways your group discussed above, challenge each person to a disciplined pursuit of at least one of them for one month. Check in each week.

Prayer: Collect needs and requests for prayers from the group, and don't forget to give praise and thanks to our most precious Lord and savior!