

Where the Light Shines Through

Week 1 - Brian Kangas

Hope in Regret

Icebreaker: Who was your role model as a child?

Topics for Discussion:

- The Christmas season is upon us. Have some members talk about a Christmas (or major holiday) from their childhood that stands out? Why did it come to mind?
- Memories, especially from childhood, can often be tinged with regret or remorse. Sometimes what we regret may not even have been our fault. Regret comes when the ideal was not met. If someone is willing, talk about a memory that he or she regrets, and discuss what the ideal in that scenario would have or could have been.
- When we look way back, into the book of Genesis, we encounter a place and time that was “the ideal”. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve wanted for nothing and got to hang out with God every day! But God made us to love him, and that requires free will so he set up one rule, which Adam and Eve broke - ruining the ideal.
Read Genesis 3:1-21
 - Who has regrets in this story and why?

Things to Consider:

- When we do wrong (voluntary sin) or have wrong done to us (involuntary sin), the result is the same: brokenness. We have departed from the ideal.
Read Luke 15:11-19
 - The prodigal son has a whole plan about what his new place is. He is filled with regrets and remorse and seeks to “cover himself” to hide his shame. He’s willing to become the lowest of the low in his father’s house just to survive.
- Read Luke 15:21-22
But the father is having none of it! He knows the value of his son, and covers him with his own robes. The son (us) could not establish a path out of his brokenness by himself, but the father could!
The simplest definition of repentance is “turn back”.

Going Deeper:

- Rather than hearing “repent” and thinking God is angry, the reality is he wants you whole and is practically begging for you to “turn back”. Look back at a moment of regret - realize that it is a reminder that your path to wholeness is found in turning back to Jesus! There is hope in this season, even in regret!

Prayer: Pray for each other with compassion!