



Small Group Discussion Questions Following the Weekend of October 31 / November 1, 2020

Please don't feel you have to answer every question.

Lifting Burdens Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

Icebreaker

If you had a moment this week that caused you to want to pull your hair out, what happened to cause this emotional reaction and how did you deal with these emotions to move forward – either positively or negatively?

Group Interaction & Application

Slowly read aloud Isaiah 58:1-6 a couple of times, in different Bible translations, if possible.

What uniquely spoke to you from Pastor Alan's message on these verses, raised some questions, or perhaps created some push-back for you?

How often do you think about justice and what does this look like when it comes to mind?

Pastor Alan spoke of there being a difference between social justice and healing justice.

What do you think he was getting at when he made this comment? How might this change your perspective?

Isaiah urges us in Isaiah 58:6 to “set the oppressed free.” How do you define the word “oppression”?

Pastor Alan highlighted three ways oppression occurs. For each, discuss

- a) specific ways you see that happening around you or in our world and
- b) specific ways we can help lift people’s burdens in that area.

Exploitation (See verse 3)

Violence (see verse 4)

Mistreatment (see verse 6)

What gets in the way of us responding to oppression around us?

Read Luke 11:46. How might our religious practices unknowingly be adding to people’s burdens? Can you think of specific examples you have observed or experienced?

In the story Pastor Alan shared about his Hispanic friend trying to purchase a building, we saw an example of another pastor being influenced into an oppressive reaction by his elders.

How have you potentially been influenced by peers either positively or negatively when you have encountered oppression in the past?

When you think of “chains of injustice” (vs. 6), what experiences from your past could be creating a blind spot for you in more fully seeing the oppression around you?

How might you respond to this recognition? How can you break these chains?

When you think about the oppression around you right now, what initial steps could you take today to help “set the oppressed free.”

Conclude by praying for one another in applying this week's insights and Spirit-promptings, as well as for general needs and concerns.

Weekly messages are available in audio or video at cccgreeley.org