

Announcements

- First Impressions Lunch for current volunteers and anyone interested in serving on August 22.
- We will be having a baptism on August 22. If anyone wants more information, they can go to imageatl.com/contactus and we will be in touch with them.

Prayer Suggestions

Natural Disasters

As you are probably aware, natural disasters such as wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and blizzards, and droughts have been on the rise over the last several years. Whether or not you agree that climate change is an issue, we can agree that these occurrences are becoming more frequent. Currently, the Dixie wildfire in California is the largest wildfire in the state's history, and experts are saying this year's fire season could be worse than last year. This month, more than 500 wildfires have started/are ongoing in Greece. There are also big wildfires happening in Italy, Algeria, and Russia.

These natural disasters are impacting the lives of people around the globe in massive ways. They are resulting in deaths, disrupted food supply & production, loss of homes and other possessions, the increase of other health problems (ie, asthma due to smoke from wildfires), an increase in personal and government spending to combat the effects of the disasters or aid in recovery. Another impact is people being forced to flee from their homes & countries to escape these disasters. (There are also scientists who believe that climate change will lead to an increase in global pandemics and more frequent disease outbreaks).

Even if we feel that these disasters aren't personally affecting us, we need to realize 2 things. First, if they aren't affecting us it is likely due to some form of privilege that we have (probably financial privilege or the fact that we live in the USA). Second, and more importantly, these disasters are affecting other people made in the image of God (including our brothers and sisters in Christ). For those reasons, we must be praying.

Pray for:

- An end to natural disasters & climate change
- Wisdom to come up with solutions to solve the problems created by these disasters
- Safety for people who are affected by them
- Peace and comfort for those who have lost family, pets, and homes due to some form of disaster
- That we would be a compassionate and courageous people who will serve those affected by these disasters and stand up to make necessary changes
- That we would be good stewards and caretakers of the world God created and gave to us

Joshua Project Unreached Peoples: <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Family Time

Family Time is an intentional space where we live out the model we see in Acts 2:42. We want to be devoted to the Word together, break bread, fellowship, and pray. It's also a place where we practice hospitality. We want this time to foster both spiritual and relational growth moving the group from acquaintances and friends to family. Family Time begins with conversations around a meal, followed by a discussion about Sunday's sermon.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

Title: Answering the Call Part 1

Series: Inverted Kingdom

Scripture: Luke 14:15-24

Other Scripture/Cross References

Cross references for Luke 14:15-24: Matthew 22:1-14

Main Points

No sermon recap this week -- please see the transcript online or your own notes taken during the service

Quotes

Don't long for the party of heaven, but the presence of God

John Piper: What is the greatest threat to your soul? Whatever keeps you from God.

John Piper: The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night

Questions

1. What challenged you? What were your takeaways? What encouraged or convicted you?
2. What questions do you have?
3. What is the "large banquet" an example of? (Kingdom of God)
4. If the parable of the large banquet is a model of the kingdom of God, what does that mean the Kingdom of God is like?
5. What good things have you made into "god things"?
6. If you were to treat your family or your job the way you treat your relationship with Christ/how you treat the church, what would the consequences be?
7. Who was invited to the banquet? Who do they represent? Who were the actual guests at the banquet? What does this mean for the Kingdom of God?
8. At the end of the parable, the master of the banquet says there is still room.
 - a. What does it mean that there is still room for people?
 - b. Have you accepted the invitation to the banquet?
9. The master of the banquet sends his servants out to the alleys and the countryside to bring more people in so that his house is full. Who do you need to make room for? Who do you need to invite to the banquet? (Think missionally. Where did the servants go to invite people? How hard was it for them to find people to invite? What does this mean for how God calls you to invite people?)

Academics (Theology, History, Word Studies)

Baker Study Bible notes on Luke 14:15-24

“The kingdom of God is like a banquet, but the people invited make excuses so that they do not have to participate. The excuses given show that these are people for whom material goods and family take priority. Their rejection at this point is extremely rude because they have already accepted the initial invitation. Jesus is probably referring to the religious leaders here; remember that he is eating in a Pharisee’s house. The master responds by inviting those of the lower class (referring to tax-collectors and sinners, lower-class Jews) from the town. Luke’s concern for the poor and handicapped continues. Even after those from the lower class are brought to the banquet, there is still room for more, so the master sends his servant to the countryside so that his “house may be filled.” This is a reference to the Gentile mission. The point of the parable is that people may talk sentimentally about the blessings of the kingdom, but in reality many do not want to accept the invitation. Those who refuse the invitation will never enter the kingdom.”

Cultural Background Study Bible notes on Luke 14:15-24

14:16 “A person of status could increase his honor by inviting many guests to a banquet -- provided they showed up. The more respectable the guests, the greater the host’s honor (though no one of higher rank than his peers would normally come)”

14:18-20 “One would normally inspect a field before buying it; one normally tested oxen before buying them; weddings were planned far in advance, so the new husband knew about the conflict before he agreed to come”

14:20 “Each of the excuses in vv 18-20 is so weak that it would insult the host; together, it is clear that the excuses constitute deliberate dishonor.”

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups are where our community groups divide into gender-specific groups for a time of more intentional discussion and connection. This creates a safer and more intimate space to open up our hearts in order to grow deeper in the gospel. This time begins with a discussion about Sunday’s sermon and then transitions to a time of transparency where we are honest about where we are relationally, personally, missionally, and spiritually.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

See Sermon Discussion Notes above.

RPMS (30-45 min)

R	How are you doing RELATIONALLY ? (friends, coworkers, neighbors, spouses, family -- also, how are you building relationships with people different from you or on the margins?)
P	How are you doing PERSONALLY ? (emotionally, mentally, physically, financially, etc.)
M	How are you doing MISSIONALLY ? (what you’re doing daily to be on mission, how you’re engaging people, etc)
S	How are you doing SPIRITUALLY ? (time with God, in Scripture, what you’re learning, who you’re learning from, memorization, etc.)

Prayer (10-15 min)