



Message Devotional & Discussion Questions

2/18/2024

MESSAGE: The Other Side of The Tracks

WEEK#4

SERIES: Jesus Story: Gospels

COMMUNICATOR: Pastor Kevin Geer

CHECKIN' IN: How is your week? What was one of the highlights? Share wins (things God did that moved his mission forward and you closer to Jesus). What did you put into practice from last week's Devotional & Discussion?

THINK, DISCUSS, LIVE: These questions work well individually or in a group setting to encourage spiritual growth, engage in biblical community and live it in the world around you.

1. What is your favorite childhood memory growing up?
 2. Your words are powerful. What word or phrase spoken to you energizes and builds you up the most? How does this word or phrase remind you of who you truly are?
 3. If you were to meet someone new and you could only use one word to describe yourself, what word would you use and why?
 4. In Luke 2:52 it says "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature." Discuss what this might have looked like for Jesus. Of those characteristics of growth, which one would you like to grow in most?
 5. Why was the town of Nazareth looked down upon? How did this view of Nazareth compare to how Jesus was viewed by the people of his day?
 6. Read John 1:45-46. What is it about Jesus that you are most excited to tell someone about him? How would you describe him? How has that description changed since your first encounter with Jesus?
 7. Read Isaiah 53:3. How does the world express their disdain for Jesus and his church? Think back to a season of life when you felt rejected, isolated or unpopular among your peers. What advice would you give your younger self?
 8. Read and discuss Romans 12:21. What are some examples of how people in our current culture get conquered by evil? What are some simple examples of "doing good" so that evil will be conquered?
 9. Which of these two phrases would you use to describe how you identify as a Christian? I am: "a sinner who is striving to be a saint, or I am a saint who sins." What would you say is the difference between the two?
 10. Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10. Paul begs Jesus to take some issue away from him. What is an issue you want Jesus to take away from your life? How can you find comfort and peace from Jesus' answer? (V.9). Why can Paul boast in his weaknesses?
 11. **TRUTH DEMANDS A RESPONSE!** What is one action step you will take this week in response to our discussion or nudge from the Holy Spirit? Be specific.
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2024 TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE: We have created some resources to help you grow. Check out the *Experience God* page. Go to canvas.church/experience-god or *Experience God* on the Canvas App., read the "Make Me Better" section, start a new discipline, try a new Bible engagement tool, or help someone go further on their faith journey. Let us know how it's going.

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PRAYER OPTIONS:

- **Prayer Question:** "What's going on in our lives that we can involve Jesus?"
- **Ask:** What was one praise and one challenge you experienced this week? Celebrate the praises and pray for the challenges.
- Ask for people in your group to **own one of the shared prayer requests** and commit to praying for that person and their request this coming week.
- **Ask** if anyone has a need or knows of a need, you can also offer "unspoken" prayer requests.
- **Pray for the person on your right**, *it can be out loud or in silence*, if in silence nudge the person next to you letting them know you are done.
- **Prayer Clusters:** Groups of two or three (by gender) and share your week together. Pray together and for each other. Send them a text, or leave a message letting them know you have prayed for them this week.
- **Have someone in your group keep an active list of the requests and the answers for both the updates and to celebrate the answers.**

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping Life Groups benefit from the weekend message? We have a team for you! Canvas members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email rickz@canvas.church