

November 5, 2017
Sermon Notes

Growth Group Discussion

Fall

Week 8

We use these times to *grow spiritually and to deepen our relationships*.

In this message series, we're focusing on how Jesus is "better"—better than any other pursuit or priority we could build our lives around.

Getting to Know You

We all know what it feels like to fail or fall in life. Have you ever lived through an embarrassing moment only to laugh about it later in life or see how it shaped you into a better person? Share with the group.

Better.—Part 6

Reflection and Discussion

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?

Consider these biblical characters who took a fall: Noah (Gen 9:20-28), Abraham (Gen 20:1-18), Joseph (Gen 37:12-24), Moses (Exodus 2:11-15), David (2 Samuel 11-12), Peter (Matthew 26:69-75)

2. What do you think the low point was like for each of these people (referenced in scriptures)? Now meditate upon the outcomes of their lives. How can this awareness help you with your own fear of "falling"?

3. Given Jesus was often misjudged, opposed, and persecuted, how do you imagine Jesus dealt with his human desire to always be accepted and approved by the people around him? (See John 2:23-25, 5:41-44) What inspiration and direction can you take from this for yourself?

4. Take time to reflect on the various ways you may direct thoughts, energy, or actions towards guarding your life and heart against the threat of a fall. Which ones are wise and fruitful? Which ones are a misuse of your energy and betray a possible lack of trust in God's goodness and power? Are you open to the input of those who know and love you on this topic? How about sharing what you think and asking their input within the context of your group?

5. Pay attention this week to the various times and ways when your thoughts go in this direction (fear of low circumstances, loss of social standing or prestige, etc). If you feel anxious, why? Consider journaling/writing down these occasions, so that you can take captive these thoughts (2 Cor 10:5) and pray and solicit prayer from friends.

6. How does this message and discussion shape your thoughts about how you view and treat others who experience a fall? How do you want to be treated if/when you fall?

Family Reminders

Camping Trip—next weekend!

This is the last Sunday to register a campsite for our annual Camping Trip to Stephen Foster campground in Georgia the weekend of **November 10-12** (Friday and Saturday nights). You can pay with cash, credit card, or check. Any additional nights you wish to stay can be made directly with the campground (Stephen C. Foster State Park at 1- 800-864-7275). Any registrations this week can be made with Rich Osgood at (904) 626-5348 through Tuesday or on site at campground IF sites remain available.

Annual Evening Christmas Service and Night of a Thousand Cookies—Dec 10th 6pm

This year's Evening Christmas Service and Party is being planned for **December 10th at 6 pm**. We'll have more details on the way soon, but save the date to come worship and celebrate with us!

Special Offering

You can turn in a talent goal card (for the first time or additional goals) and/or give to our special offering this year **AT ANY TIME** during the year, using red envelopes in the pews. There is no special giving date or cutoff date (other than New Year's Eve:) We can do it!

Overall Talent Goal: \$80K

Offered To Date: \$58K