

INTRO & ICE BREAKER

Introduce yourself and answer this: What were you most excited about for the Easter season as a child? How did this change as you got older?

RECAP & DISCUSSION

This Sunday, Pastor Mike concluded our series FAITHFULL with the examples in life where we are trying to build a new skill or talent but are held back by our self-talk, environment, old habits and lifestyle. Frequently this leads us down a path where we don't know what to do or where to go for help.

Discussion:

- Let's spend a few moments sharing what stood out to us from the message on Sunday. What was new or unexpected? What impacted you the most? What did you talk about after service?

Pastor Mike equated building our faith with spiritual maturity. Often we are fixated on the problem and "glance" at God for help instead of focusing on God and trusting Him with the outcome. Our priorities are out of sync and hope becomes the strategy. God wants us to focus on Him and learn a new way to navigate the outcome.

Discussion:

- Why is it sometimes easier to focus on the problem than God?
- The world teaches self reliance; does this conflict with your understanding of faith?

Pastor Mike affirmed ***our faith is equivalent to the investment we put into it.*** Building a set of spiritual disciplines is key. This includes reading scripture, being in His presence and connecting with His people. None are sufficient on their own. It is the combination of reading, being and connecting which establishes our foundation.

Discussion:

- Of the three disciplines, do you find one easier or harder to do?
- What are some tools you can use to develop or build on your foundation?

One element Pastor Mike focused on self-study of God's Word. It is not enough to be told what the Bible says, it's when we learn what the Bible means we can apply it in our lives. When Jesus was in the wilderness Satan tempted him by manipulating scripture. We don't have to be a theologian. The more time we spend in the Word, the easier it becomes to grasp its truth.

Discussion:

- Do you make time to read or listen to scripture on a regular basis?
- Are you comfortable sharing illustrations from the Bible with other people? Why or why not?

The second element Pastor Mike discussed is "being in His presence". The church service on Sunday is an important element in building our faith. Sermons expand our understanding of God's word so we can apply it today. But there are other times where we can experience God and be in His presence. Some examples include: worship music, prayer and community.

Discussion:

- Are there times during the week where you are intentional in connecting with God?
- Do you resonate with any of the examples above? Where else do you connect with God?

Have someone read Matthew 18:19-20 -

Congratulations on being in a Life Group! Life Groups are much more than a program at Our City Church. They are a lifestyle which is essential to our spiritual health and the development of faith. We will all experience trials, there is comfort in knowing we don't have to do this alone. Here we are validated and can begin to navigate solutions.

Discussion:

- Why did you join a Life Group? What are you most thankful for?

- What would you like to do, see, and experience as you continue your journey of faith?

ANNOUNCE

- Did you sign up for a Serve Team on Sunday? If not, there's still time! We need your help to serve our current two services (attend one, serve one model) and to get ready for Easter Sunday!
 - To sign up for a serve team, fill out the Serve Team interest form!
 - <https://ourcity.churchcenter.com/people/forms/273609>
- Easter Sunday is April 9th!
 - Who can you start praying for and investing in to invite for Easter??
- Love Our City Street Team - Thursday 3/30 at 5:30-6:30pm!
 - We'll be preparing for Easter weekend by praying for and leaving invitations for our neighbors and local community!
 - Meet at the church at 5:30pm and wear comfortable walking shoes and a jacket! This is a family friendly event, so bring your kiddos with you!
 - Text Pastor Katie with any questions or to RSVP!

PRAY

One of the things that we want to focus on each season of Life Groups is to get comfortable praying out loud together. Close out your time together with prayer. If you're a newer Life Group, the leader can set an example by leading in prayer, but explain that we'll all be doing this over the next few weeks together. Explain that prayer is simply talking to God - there aren't perfect words to say. Next week, encourage someone else to close in prayer!

Are there any prayer requests or praise/prayer requests?

OUR CITY
CHURCH