

TALK ABOUT IT

Stories

WE'VE ALL GOT ONE

April 18, 2021

To watch the message, visit
cypresschurch.tv/teaching

TEACHING OVERVIEW

Pastor Ken continued the teaching series, Stories. In this teaching series, we are looking at stories in the Bible and how their stories are often similar to our stories, and how they relate. This week we talked about a journey we are all on - searching for meaningful purpose!

Encouragement

Last week, Pastor Jackson talked about overcoming obstacles as we looked at Peter and his story of how he overcame struggles in his life. What are the ways that you've worked through various obstacles in your past? (Leader Note: Journaling, Accountability with Friends, Church Attendance, etc.)

Scripture & Discussion

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-7

1. Early in Pastor Ken's teaching, he spoke on the fact that James, (Jesus' brother), as well as the people of the town, did not believe that Jesus was Christ. The resurrection of Jesus truly changed and transformed James into seeing his brother as Christ. Is there a memorable moment in your life that made you rethink the way you've been living for Jesus? Have you ever had an experience that allowed you to see Jesus in a new way that caused your relationship to grow?

2. The end of this passages says, "Then he appeared to James". Jesus created a special moment for James to know the truth. There was a death of what James thought he knew in this moment. It was a death to himself. We all have had things in our lives that we've had to let go of. Have you ever had to let go of something in order to grow closer, or to believe in Christ?

Scripture & Discussion

Read: [James 1:1](#) & [James 2:17](#)

3. James starts his letter by writing, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ". Why do you think he chose to not add that he was Jesus' brother, but instead a servant of Him? How did the way James viewed himself help shape others' perception of him?

4. Pastor Ken said that "personal experiences and encounters lead to public expressions." This means that the hard work you do in your personal life will reflect in public expressions later on. He used the example of his doctor giving him an exercise sheet to do to help his back pain. In your personal life, are there things that you could be doing to better your walk with Christ in private, so that in the open you may reflect more of who He is? What work in your personal life can be done this week that will allow you to shine Christ's love publicly?

5. James 1:22 and James 2:17 encourage us to take tangible Next Steps because faith without actions is what the bible calls "useless". What are the things in your life that you are praying for that may require you to take difficult steps? What are the things in your life that you need to do in order to be more like Jesus?

Prayer

Pray for identifiable Next Steps that you can take to grow closer to Christ and pray you have the courage to follow through.

Pray for everyone in your Group to be more like Jesus and do more like Jesus this week.

Next Steps

The "Love Your Neighbor" Initiative is the perfect way to be a difference maker. James went from being a skeptic, to being a leader of leaders. We are called as believers to serve and love those around us which is true leadership. Get involved today by going being part of one of our serve initiatives! (<https://cypresschurch.tv/love-your-neighbor>).

Take some time to memorize James 2:17 this week and be encouraged by the call to step out, serve, and love those around us!