

small group discussion questions



Going Off the Deep End

Message by Pastor Brian Flewelling

April 3rd, 2016

Conversation Starter:

Lately God has been teaching me...

Discussion Questions:

1. Baptism is a moment of commitment, a moment to draw a line in the sand and make a public declaration of your permanent commitment to the Lord.
 - Was there a moment when you drew a line in the sand and committed yourself entirely to God?
 - How did you feel at that moment?
 - Did you encounter immediate resistance or difficulties, or was it smooth sailing for a while?
 - What helped you to grow during those first days of resolve?
 - What has helped you grow after those first days of resolve?
2. **Read 1 Peter 3:8--4:6.** In study groups of 4-5 answer the following questions. (Grab a blank piece of paper.)
 - a. Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to make his word come to life as you study it together.
 - b. Make a list of all the key words or phrases or words that the author uses more than once.
 - c. Jot down what you think the major ideas are that the author is trying to communicate to his audience. Write them in columns.
 - d. Then under each major idea, write down the words, or phrases, or verses the author uses to support that major idea.
 - e. What are some of the things the author says that you are having trouble understanding?
 - f. If you could sum up these twenty verses into one sentence, taking into consideration the major themes you've already mentioned, what would that summary be?
 - g. Under each of the 'major ideas columns', discuss as a group, and write down some ways you can apply these truths to your life today?
 - h. Is there a truth in this passage or an application step that the Holy Spirit is really bringing to life for you personally?
 - i. Take some time to pray in your small groups that the Lord would give you the wisdom to know how to apply these truths and desire to apply these truths into your life.
3. On Sunday Pastor Brian mentioned the difference between legalism and the life of Jesus. "Obedience to Jesus is life giving. Conformity to rules is suffocating. Obedience to Jesus brings peace. Conformity breeds frustration."
 - What do you think Brian meant by this?
 - Do you have any experience with legalism? How did it affect you?
 - How can we be rigorous in obeying Jesus without falling into legalism?

4. **John 14:23** says “Anyone who loves me (Jesus) will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”
- Based on this truth, what is the relationship between our obedience and God’s love?
 - Is that a contradiction with the teaching from John 3:16 where Jesus loves the world that hasn’t been obedient?