

Life Group Lesson

Essentials • Week of August 7

Introduction

Christ Church has six essential Core Values that keep us grounded in our mission. Using the acronym of C-H-R-I-S-T, this week we are looking at H – Healing happens best in need-based ministries and small groups. Need-based ministries, like Celebrate Recovery, and sermon-based small groups we call Life Groups, are all about living into holiness – Sanctification, as John Wesley called it. We all have areas where we need special attention, intentional work, healing, deliverance, and transformation. Salvation is simply inviting the Person of Jesus Christ into your life, into the work-zone. And once you ask Jesus into your heart, you surrender your will (your way to His way) and trust Him to make Himself at home in your heart. The Lord loves you deeply and is ready to begin the healing and cleansing process. You both will work together.

Too often we think we have to clean up ‘the house’ before inviting the Lord Jesus into our hearts. To be sure, it is important to prepare for His arrival – for example, counting the cost, being clear-headed about the personal decision we are about to *consciously* make. But once Jesus walks into our life, it is important to remember that Christ alone lays the foundation. He alone took your place on the cross. Christ defeated sin (yes, even your sin) when He gloriously rose from death. Christ’s resurrection power makes you part God’s building. God’s Temple is holy. You become the dwelling place of Christ’s presence. Together we become the Church, the Bride of Christ. Salvation *is* personal; but it is not private. We all become one Body.

Background

We come to Christ like little children. And we should always keep that childlike faith – trusting, loving, adoring our heavenly Father. Yet, the apostle Paul wanted the church in Corinth to understand that there is a huge difference in childlike faith and being childish. Paul loved the church in Corinth and spoke plainly to them as he shared the Good News of Christ –

“When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I

relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

By the time he wrote this letter to the church in Corinth, Paul expected believers there to have grown into a deeper level of maturity. We too need to keep growing. Sometimes we forget the basics. Like the believers in Corinth, we often forget that from start to finish, salvation is a free gift of God’s grace. We do nothing to earn it. As we choose to live into God’s grace—by being gracious towards others, and growing into maturity and love—we will be truer reflections of God in this fallen, broken world. We lift up Christ alone; not another human being. We should never idolize the evangelist (messenger) over the Message. Only Christ, the author of salvation Himself, deserves all honor, glory and praise! We should never value worldly wisdom over God’s wisdom, and the simplicity of accepting God’s way of making us right with Him. Faith.

“God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish... God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; He made us pure and holy, and He freed us from sin” (1 Corinthians 1:20b, 30).

Reading the Text

Read I Corinthians 3:1-23

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

In Closing

Jesus Christ is our Healer. All of us struggle on some level with hurts, habits, and hang-ups. We all need to be in recovery from the *addiction of sin*. Thus, the ‘Twelve Steps’ has much to offer each of us. Principle One says: “Realize I am not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.” Is there any part of your life—your workplace, marriage, finances, family—that is unmanageable? Someone has said: It is not

weakness to ask for help; it is wisdom. In Step 1: “We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.” Paul also confesses: “For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out” (Romans 7:18). Stop denying the pain and stop playing God. Instead, let us start admitting that we are powerless. Let us declare together as a first step: “Lord, we need You! And we need each other.” Pray now.

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

Essentials

Text: I Corinthians 3:1-23

Plain Truth:

In admitting we are _____,
by _____ a group, we unleash the
power of _____.

1. Stop _____ the pain.
2. Stop _____ God.
3. Start _____ our _____.
4. Start admitting that our lives have become _____.

One Year Bible Readings

August 7: Ezra 4:24-6:22, 1 Corinthians 3:5-23, Psalm 29:1-11, Proverbs 20:26-27
August 8: Ezra 7:1-8:20, 1 Corinthians 4:1-21, Psalm 30:1-12, Proverbs 20:28-30
August 9: Ezra 8:21-9:15, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 21:1-2
August 10: Ezra 10:1-44, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 21:3
August 11: Nehemiah 1:1-3:14, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 31:19-24, Proverbs 21:4
August 12: Nehemiah 3:15-5:13, 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Psalm 32:1-11, Proverbs 21:5-7
August 13: Nehemiah 5:14-7:73, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Psalm 33:1-11, Proverbs 21:8-10

August 7, 2022