

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2020

We are entering week 8 of our 10 week all church fall focus, reading through the book AHA (**A**wakening, **H**onesty, **A**ction). This book follows one of the most famous parables of Jesus, the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. The questions included here will provide the previous, and current, week's questions. Our hope is that these questions lead each of us into the parable of the Prodigal Sons so that we understand, in new ways, the character and heart of God. That will lead us to AHA: Awakening, Honesty, and Action ... loving God, loving others!

AHA CHAPTER 8 QUESTIONS (PREVIOUS WEEK | WEEK 7)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the Prodigal Sons Parable found in Luke 15:11-32.

1. Re-read Luke 15:25-30. Why did the older son respond with anger at the news of his brother's return? How did the older son misunderstand the character of his father? How can a good, dutiful, hard-working son also be lost?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

2. Do you agree with what the author writes on page 127? Why or why not?
"Sin will always take you farther than you want to go,
Sin will always cost you more than you want to pay,
Sin will always keep you longer than you want to stay."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

3. In two or three sentences how would you define the concept of sin to someone who has never been to church? How serious of a problem is sin?
4. What does the Bible say about sin? (Some passages to consider: Genesis 2:17, Genesis 6:5, 2 Samuel 12:13, Psalm 38:1-4, Psalm 51:8-11, Ecclesiastes 8:11-13, Isaiah 30:1, Isaiah 59:2, Jeremiah 16:10-12, Romans 3:20-21, Romans 6:16, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1, Ephesians 2:12, 1 Timothy 5:24, Hebrews 9:22, James 1:14-15)
5. Why might it be necessary for us to hear the bad news of our sin before we are receptive to the good news of God's grace and forgiveness? (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, John 1:29, Acts 2:37-39)
6. What is the true cost of our sin (in relationships, time, \$...)?

AHA CHAPTERS 9&10 QUESTIONS (UPCOMING WEEK 8)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the Prodigal Sons Parable found in Luke 15:11-32.

1. Re-read Luke 15:31-32. What does the father mean when he tells his older son, "You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours"? What is Jesus communicating in this parable about the character and plans of God? Discuss what you imagine happened next for the two sons?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

2. What does it usually take for you to make a change in your life (comments from others, pain you can't ignore, a sudden realization, faith convictions, a lack of other options ...)?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

3. How would you answer someone who asked you for a 15 second response to the question, "what the goal of Christian faith?"
4. What does the Bible say about the need for "change" in our life? For each of the verses below discuss how our lives would be changed if we took the verse seriously (Mark 12:29-31, Psalm 51:9-13, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Luke 3:7-8, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:16, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 1:27-29, Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Peter 3:18)
5. When we talk about change it often sounds as if it depends on human strength, decision, will-power. Is that the kind of change we are talking about? In the first chapter of the AHA book the author writes, "So let me be clear: AHA is not a self-help process. It's the antithesis of a self-help book."
6. How does real, eternity-lasting, God honoring, change happen in a person's life? (1 Corinthians 3:5-7, Philippians 2:12-13, John 15:5)

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a minute or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. In your prayer ask God to give you the desire to change, and then the ability to begin changing the broken and destructive things in your life. One step at a time. He will help us! He loves us!