

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2020

We are entering week 7 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 Sons in Luke 15. The questions included here will provide the previous, and current, week's questions. Sunday sermons typically follow the previous week's study. 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 7 QUESTIONS (PREVIOUS WEEK | WEEK 6)

WHAT DOES IT SAY? Read the Prodigal Sons Parable Luke 15:11-32.

1. Re-read Luke 15:22-24. Was the father's response what you would have expected? What were the possible responses the prodigal son could have received when he returned home? How did the father's response communicate forgiveness to his son?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

2. How would you explain "forgiveness"?
 - o How easy is it for you to ask for forgiveness?
 - o How easy is it for you to offer forgiveness?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

3. Does Christian faith offer a different understanding of forgiveness than other religions and philosophies?
4. What does the Bible teach us about forgiveness? (Some suggested passages: Matthew 18:15-29, Colossians 2:13, Colossians 3:13, 1 John 1:8-9, Psalm 103:8-14, Psalm 51:1-2)
5. How many times should we forgive someone who repeatedly hurts or offends us? (Matthew 18:22, Luke 17:3-5)
6. Recite the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-15). Does praying the Lord's Prayer change our understanding of forgiveness?
7. Pastor Timothy Keller states that forgiveness always costs the one offering forgiveness something. If he's right, what did it cost God to forgive you?
8. Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to ask forgiveness from?

AHA CHAPTER 8 QUESTIONS (UPCOMING 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 did the preaching of Jesus begin with a message about sin? 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 your sin (relationships, money ...)?

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 reveal the true nature, danger, and depth of sin. Ask Him to give you courage to face your sins. Ask for God's help to turn away from your sin (which leads to death) and turn towards God (who offers life, here and now, and into eternity). He will help you! He loves you!