

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2020

We have arrived at week 10 of our 10 week all church fall focus, reading through the book AHA (**A**wakening, **H**onesty, **A**ction). This book followed one of the most famous parables of Jesus, the parable of the Prodigal Sons in Luke 15. The questions included here provide the previous, and current, week's questions. Our hope is that these questions lead each of us into the Prodigal Sons parable 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 11&12 QUESTIONS (CURRENT WEEK 9)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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

1. Re-read Luke 15:20. What would this parable communicate to us if the son had not "gotten up and gone back to his father"?
2. What does the father's response communicate to us?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Is there a moment when someone has gone too far, for too long, and there is no longer any hope for them?
 - o What about the worst of criminals, predators' terrorists, the evilest throughout human history?
4. If you were speaking with someone who shared their belief that: it was too late for them and they were beyond the forgiveness of God, how would you respond?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. If someone unfamiliar with Christian faith asked you to explain "God's grace" in a few sentences, what would you say?
6. How can the Bible help us understand the importance of God's grace? (consider the following passages and discuss what they have to say about God's grace: Psalm 86:1-8, Matthew 11:27-30, John 1:14 & 16-17, Acts 15:8-11, Romans 3:23-24, Romans 6:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 2:20-21, Ephesians 2:1-5, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Timothy 1:8-9, Titus 3:5-7, Hebrews 4:16, 2 Peter 3:18)
7. How does a correct understanding of God's grace change our relationship with God? With others? With ourselves?

AHA CHAPTER 13 QUESTIONS (UPCOMING WEEK 10)

WHAT DOES IT SAY? Read the Prodigal Parable (Luke 15:11-32)

1. Re-read Luke 15:29-32. How would you describe the relationship between the father and his older son? Between the older son and his younger brother?
2. If you were the father in this story what would you have said to your older son?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. What is your best definition of "justice" and "mercy"?
4. When you do something that breaks a rule, hurts someone ... do you want justice, or do you want mercy?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. In your opinion is it harder for someone far from God to turn their life around and yield to God, or is it harder for someone who is a good well-respected person to turn their life around and yield to God?
6. How does an awareness of God's mercy offered to us affect our relationship with God, with others, with ourselves?
7. What is your relationship like with your heavenly Father? How does God see you? What would God say to you if you were to meet Him face to face?

Questions for the first Sunday in Advent (HOPE)

8. Read the account of the birth of Jesus in Matthew 1:18-25
 - o What does this story communicate about God and His relationship with us?
 - o How does the promise of "Immanuel: God with us" impact you in your day to day life?
9. How does the miracle of Christmas change your hope for your future, the future for your children and grandchildren?

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 help you face your failures and also understand His mercy. Thank God for the miracle of Christmas. Immanuel, God with us. Ask Him to give you confidence and hope for today. He will help you! He loves you!