

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020

We are entering week 6 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 CHAPTERS 5 & 6 QUESTIONS (PREVIOUS WEEK)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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

1. Re-read Luke 15:20-21. How might the two different groups hearing this parable (the tax collectors and sinners, and the Pharisees and Scribes/Legalists and Experts in Religious Law) have reacted to this part of the story?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

2. How likely is it that a hidden sin will remain secret? Is it easier to continue living a lie (hiding a sin) or telling the truth (confessing the sin)?
3. If every intimate detail, past sin, and thought, in your life were displayed publicly for all to see, how would you respond? Does being a Christian change our response?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

The author of the AHA book writes, and the prodigal son models, that we should we confess our sins to someone else.

4. What is the value of confessing our sins to someone else?
5. Is there a difference between "regret" and "repentance", between "apology" and "confession"?
 - o Consider King Saul (1 Samuel 13:8-14) and King David (2 Samuel 12:1-15). How would you describe their response to the exposed sin in their life? "Regret" or "Repentance"?
6. What kind of person would you be willing to confess your sins to? Do you have that type of person in your life now?

AHA CHAPTER 7 QUESTIONS (CURRENT 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. If you were asked to explain "forgiveness" what would you say?
 - 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? (Read the following: 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?

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 reflect on how much God has forgiven you. Thank God for His grace, mercy and forgiveness. Ask Him to reveal to you who you need to forgive, and who you need to ask forgiveness from. Ask for God's help and strength to forgive others, and to ask for forgiveness from others.
He will help you! He loves you!