

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2020

For 10 weeks this fall we are asking all who are a part of Grace of Christ to connect with a Community Group. During these weeks together we are 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 following notes are an abbreviation of notes sent to leaders of each Community Group. The questions included here (each week we will provide the previous, and current, week's questions) are for those who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to commit to a 10-week Community Group. Sunday sermons follow the previous week's study. Our hope is that these questions help you individually, or as a family, as you read through the AHA book, or dive deeper into the parable of the Prodigal Sons. Our goal is to understand the character and heart of God which will lead us all to AHA, loving God, loving others!

AHA CHAPTER 2 QUESTIONS (FOCUS OF OCT 11 SERMON)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the Prodigal Sons Parable Luke 15:11-32. Re-read 11-17.
If reading the AHA Book, read chapter 2 "Coming to Your Senses"

1. What brought this prodigal son to the point where he "came to his senses"?
2. What were the warning signs, the alarms, that this son received before he found himself feeding pigs?
3. What examples of "alarms" do we have in the Bible where God provided clear warnings of dangers ahead, or of a problem being ignored? Some examples: 1 Samuel 12:1-15 (David) | Luke 22:31-34, 60-62 (Peter) | Acts 9 (Saul)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why does God provide warnings (in the Bible, from friends and family, from society, from a conviction or medical diagnosis, from a voice inside (conscience/Holy Spirit))?
5. What would it mean, what would be the result, if God did not warn us and instead let us do whatever we wanted to do?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. How have alarms sent by God saved you from a specific difficulty or trouble?
7. Who in your life do you trust to warn you of trouble you are in, or headed for?

AHA CHAPTER 3 QUESTIONS (NEXT WEEK)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the Prodigal Sons Parable Luke 15:11-32. Re-read 13-16.
If reading the AHA Book, read chapter 3 "A Desperate Moment"

1. What did the young prodigal son expect as he headed to the distant country?
2. How was his real life experience different than his expectations?
3. What caused him to reach his "desperate moment"?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Describe a time when you suddenly realized you were lost, your life was out of control, you felt powerless. How did it feel? How did you respond? Who did you turn to for help? What was the outcome?
5. Does everyone who travels to the distant country reach a desperate moment? How would your life be different if you faced no consequences for the choices you made? If others also faced no consequences for their choices and actions how would that affect you, and society?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. If you had the ability to go back and remove all of the difficult and painful experiences in the lives of those you love, would you? Explain.
7. Do you agree with the author of the AHA book that it is difficult times that contribute most to a person's spiritual growth? Read Romans 5:1-5, John 16:33, Romans 8:28-32.

Spend time in prayer (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 meet you right where you are and to help you understand the way that the troubles, heartaches, difficulties you have experienced have shaped your life. Your questions, doubts, even anger, directed at God are OK. Remember, God loves you, is very patient, has a good plan for your life, wants what is best for you, and will provide the healing, power, forgiveness, and courage you (we all) need. He is with us in our brokenness. Desperate moments can lead to something beautiful.