

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2020

For 10 weeks this fall we are asking all who are a part of Grace of Christ to connect with a Community Group. If you haven't already, there is still time. Contact us in the church office, or online, for more information. 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 book chapter. 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!

PREVIOUS WEEK QUESTIONS (FOCUS OF OCT 4 SERMON)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the entire chapter, Luke 15.

If reading the AHA Book, read chapter 1 "The Distant Country"

1. Why do you think these 3 parables in Luke 15 are grouped together? What was lost in each of the parables? How was what was lost found?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

2. When was the last time you lost something that was valuable to you? What process did you go through in your attempt to find what was lost?
3. Were you successful in recovering what was lost? Think through the feelings you had whether successful or not.
4. What do these parables tell us about the character of God?
5. What type of person needs to hear these parables?
6. If God is loving and kind, why would anyone leave Him?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU? Re-read Luke 15 verses 11-13

7. Have you been to a distant country, or are you there now? If you are, or if you have been, what led you there?
8. What is your view of God? What are five words you would use to describe how you honestly feel about God?

NEXT WEEK 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. Why didn't this prodigal son respond to earlier warnings?
3. What were the warning signs, the alarms, that this son received before he found himself feeding pigs?
4. 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?

5. 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))?
6. 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?

7. How have alarms sent by God saved you from a specific difficulty or trouble, or helped you break away from trouble, or a temptation/sin, you were in the middle of?
8. Who in our life do we trust to warn us of trouble we are in, or headed for?

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. As we get to know God, and as we talk with others who also want to love Jesus, we find praying is easier. In your prayer ask God to meet you right where you are and reveal to you areas of your life that are harming you, or areas that may cause damage to you and those around you. 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 really, truly, sends warnings because of His love for us. He seeks us when we are lost and in the far country!