

# **COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 25, 2020

We are entering week 5 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 4 QUESTIONS** (PREVIOUS WEEK)

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

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

If reading the AHA Book, read chapter 4 "A Startling Realization"

1. Re-read Luke 15:17. Why was this a startling realization about his father, and about himself? How had he likely viewed his father, himself, previously?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

2. How much silence/solitude is there in your daily life? Do you need more silence/solitude?
3. What circumstances make it easier for you to reflect honestly? Where, when, how, does this happen for you?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

We do not come to life-changing, soul-searching, God-honoring, realizations on our own. The Holy Spirit awakens us to those startling realizations.

4. What are some understandings/misunderstandings people have about the Holy Spirit?
5. What does the Bible teach us about the Holy Spirit? Some Bible passages to consider (read the verses before and after those listed here): Genesis 1:2, Psalm 51:11, Micah 3:8, Luke 1:35, Luke 11:33, Luke 24:31-32, John 7:39, John 14:26, John 16:13, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:29, Acts 16:14, Galatians 5:22.
6. How is the Holy Spirit a part of your everyday life?

*Contact a Grace of Christ pastor if you'd like to discuss this further.*

## **AHA CHAPTERS 5 & 6 QUESTIONS** (CURRENT 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 easy is it for someone to hide their sins from others? 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 compromising thought, in your life were displayed publicly for all to see, how would you respond? Would being a follower of Jesus change your response? Why or why not?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

The author of the AHA book writes, and the prodigal son models, that we should 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"?
  - 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? How would you respond if someone came to you to confess their sins?

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 give you the courage to honestly face the sins in your life, and then to provide someone you trust that you can confess your sins to. Remember God completely forgives us when we ask Him with an honest desire to turn away from our sins.