Right Side Up in an Upside Down World: Week Four

Connect Group Guide - 11.11.26

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture

- **Hebrews 10:26-31**
- Also read: Romans 6:12-13; Romans 6:1-2; Psalm 51

Message Recap

In this message, Pastor Mike explored Hebrews 10:26-31 and the difference between stumbling with repentance and settled rebellion. Written to persecuted believers called to hold firmly to Christ, Hebrews still speaks to us today. Repeated failure does not automatically mean rejecting Jesus. The heart's posture matters: grace leads us toward repentance and a changed life.

Key Takeaways

- **What you know matters.** Knowing the truth creates accountability. Choosing to ignore what God has revealed is sin, rather than merely a mistake.
- **Stumbling and settled rebellion are different.** Hebrews 10 warns against unrepentant rebellion, rather than temptation or the struggles of believers who are sincerely fighting sin.
- **Repeated failure is not the same as rejecting Christ.** A person can struggle with the same sin for years while sincerely seeking God's help. The key is the heart's posture toward God.
- **Grace changes our relationship to sin.** It addresses our guilt and gives us power to live differently. Grace is never permission to keep sinning.
- **Forgiveness should lead us to repentance.** Provision for our need must never become an excuse to ignore it. Available forgiveness should make us quicker to repent, rather than more willing to sin.

Discussion Questions

Opening Questions

1. What is one thing from the message that stood out to you, challenged you, or that you are still thinking about?

Going Deeper:

2. The message described three stages: temptation, stumbling with repentance, and settled unrepentant rebellion. In your own words, how would you describe the difference between the three? Why does it matter to distinguish between them?

3. Pastor Mike made the point that "repeated failure does not automatically prove that a person has rejected Christ." How does that statement either encourage you or challenge the way you have thought about your own struggles with sin?

4. The message used David and Peter as examples of people who sinned knowingly and were still restored. What do you think made restoration possible for them? What does their example tell us about God's character?

5. Pastor Mike described the "posture of the heart" as the key difference between someone who stumbles and someone who is in settled rebellion. What does a heart posture of genuine repentance look like in everyday life? What does a rebellious heart posture look like?

6. Romans 6:1-2 asks whether we should keep sinning so that grace can increase, and the answer is an emphatic no. Have you ever caught yourself - even subtly - using the availability of forgiveness as a reason to be less serious about sin? What does that reveal about how we understand grace?

7. The message said, "Grace does not merely address our guilt. It changes our relationship to sin." What is the difference between feeling guilty about a sin and genuinely hating it? How have you experienced that difference in your own life?

8. The illustration of a grandchild sacrificing his life to save a room full of people was used to describe how God might feel when we treat Christ's sacrifice casually. How does that picture affect the way you think about your own patterns of sin?

Personal Reflection

9. Pastor Mike was transparent about his own stumbling - a moment of overindulgence he recognized as sin and brought before God. Is there an area in your life right now where you have been treating a weakness casually rather than seriously? You do not need to share details, but consider: is your posture toward that area one of fighting or of defending?

10. The message closed with a challenge about how we order our lives around God rather than fitting God into our schedules. In what practical ways could your week look different if your calendar started with God rather than ended with Him?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more to practice before your group meets again.

- **Identify your pattern.** Ask the Holy Spirit whether an area of your life has moved from stumbling to settled habit. Write it down privately and bring it before God.
- **Confess and seek accountability.** Consider sharing a recurring sin with one trusted, mature believer this week. Read James 5:16 and reflect on the connection between confession, prayer, and healing.
- **Study grace rightly.** Read Romans 6 in full. Notice how Paul connects grace to transformation, rather than permission to sin. Journal one thing that shifts in your thinking.
- **Reorder one thing on your calendar.** Identify a commitment crowding out time with God, community, or service. Make one concrete adjustment this week, even a small one.
- **Return to the Word when tempted.** Pastor Mike noted that Jesus answered temptation with Scripture and that the enemy twists the Word to deceive. Memorize a verse that speaks directly to an area of regular temptation.

Prayer Requests & Closing

Pray together for:

- Courage to examine honestly the posture of our hearts toward God.
- A genuine hatred of sin, rather than only a response of guilt.
- Strength to fight temptation and humility to seek help when we stumble.
- A church community that values access to God's Word and responds with obedience.