

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 10/25/26

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the heritage You have given us and the faithful people who have shaped our lives. As we gather in this group, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to speak to each of us today. Set aside our distractions and our assumptions, and let Your Spirit guide our conversation. May we not simply remember and rejoice in what You have done, but may we leave here with a renewed commitment to follow You faithfully. In the name of Jesus, our author and finisher, we pray. Amen.

Ice Breaker

Think of one person from your past, whether a teacher, mentor, pastor, or friend, who made a lasting impression on your faith journey. What is one word you would use to describe them?

Summary

In this Reformation Sunday message, Dr. Bowling called the congregation to embrace three guiding words: remember, rejoice, and recommit. Drawing from Psalm 78 and Hebrews 12, he reflected on the faithfulness of God across generations, celebrating how lives have been transformed through the ministry of College Church and Olivet Nazarene University. He reminded the congregation that God's faithfulness often had a face, expressed through professors, roommates, pastors, and friends who embodied the gospel to students in their most uncertain moments.

Dr. Bowling connected the Spirit of homecoming with the Spirit of the Reformation, noting that homecoming calls us to look back with gratitude while the Reformation calls us to look forward with conviction. Just as the Reformers declared Christ alone as the center of faith, today's congregation is challenged to recommit to that same foundation. Students today face different challenges and carry different questions, but their core need remains unchanged. They still need Jesus, a church, and people who will faithfully pass the story of God's grace to the next generation.

Key Verses

- Psalm 78:4
- Hebrews 12:1-2

Questions

1. Dr. Bowling described how God's faithfulness often had a face, meaning it was expressed through real people in someone's life. Who has been the face of God's faithfulness to you, and how did that person influence your walk with Christ?
2. Psalm 78:4 calls us to tell the coming generation about the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. In what practical ways are you currently passing on the story of God's faithfulness to those who are younger in age or faith?
3. Dr. Bowling outlined a progression in Psalm 78: remembering leads to telling, telling leads to believing, believing leads to living. Where do you see yourself in that progression right now, and what might be holding you back from moving further along it?

4. Hebrews 12:1-2 urges us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. What does it look like practically in your daily life to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus rather than on your circumstances?
5. The Reformation principle of Christ alone reminds us that everything in our lives must find its proper place under the lordship of Jesus. Are there areas of your life where something other than Christ has taken center stage? How might you reorder those priorities?
6. Dr. Bowling noted that while culture, technology, and challenges change from generation to generation, the basic human need for Jesus does not change. How does that truth shape the way you engage with people who seem very different from you?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who is younger in age or faith and intentionally share with them a specific story of God's faithfulness in your own life. It does not need to be a long conversation. It could be a text, a coffee meeting, or a simple moment of encouragement. Ask God to help you be the face of His faithfulness to that person, just as someone once was for you. As you do, remember that remembering leads to telling, and telling leads to believing.

Key Takeaways

- We are called to remember the faithfulness of God across generations, recognizing that His story is woven into the history of our churches, schools, and communities.
- Rejoicing in what God is doing today is just as important as celebrating what He has done in the past. The gospel is still good news, grace is still amazing, and Jesus Christ is still Lord.
- The Reformation principle of Christ alone challenges every generation to recommit to keeping Jesus at the center of faith, life, and ministry, not tradition, opinion, or circumstance.
- God's faithfulness is often expressed through people. Each of us has a responsibility to be the face of that faithfulness to the next generation by living and telling the story of what God has done.
- Remembering, rejoicing, and recommitting are not just seasonal activities for homecoming or Reformation Sunday. They are ongoing postures of a faithful Christian life that connect the past, present, and future.

Ending Prayer

Gracious and faithful God, we thank You for the time we have shared together today. We are grateful for the heritage of faith that has been passed down to us through those who came before, and we are humbled by the responsibility we carry to pass it forward. As we leave this place, help us to remember Your faithfulness with gratitude, to rejoice in what You are doing right now with confidence, and to recommit ourselves to Christ alone with renewed conviction. May our lives tell the story of Your grace to everyone around us, especially to the generation that is watching and waiting. Give us courage to run the race marked out for us, with our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

A Note About These Questions: These small group questions are developed from each week's sermon with the assistance of Sermonshots, which incorporates AI technology. The resulting questions and content are reviewed and edited by the pastor before being shared with the congregation.