

GROUP QUESTIONS: The Art of Peacemaking Wk 3 - w/ Pastor Mindy and the teaching of Rene August

Announcements:

Save the Date for Sunday, May 21 - Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

June 4th - Graduation Sunday!

1. What's your favorite movie genre to watch?
2. Take a minute to summarize with your group the main point of the message from Sunday and/or briefly share what stood out to you the most.
3. What's a narrative from childhood that you have had to evaluate and leave behind? A story about life or people or the way things work that you have found unhelpful in your adult life. (this can be simple and silly or big and important.)
4. Rene August said that the Church isn't always good at telling the truth. She suggests the motivation to not tell the truth is connected to power. What are some ways the Church as a whole has leveraged their spiritual authority in ways that don't tell the truth but do secure their power.
5. August encourages us to interrogate the work that Jesus invites us to around forgiveness. She says that forgiveness does not condone injustice, accept what is wrong, or tolerate injustice ever, but it is a tool of healing and a currency in the kingdom. Jesus says it costs us something - forgiving seventy times seven is hard! She says doing the work of forgiveness invites us into a new story about ourselves. A story where we welcome God into our wounds and accept that we are beloved. Do you see a connection between forgiveness and how we view ourselves?
6. August says that it is really hard to hold onto forgiveness (for both self and other) in deep raw places of pain. How do you experience this in your life? Does this seem to match your experience?

7. Sometimes we feel and believe that our wounds are our identity, especially if we have lived through significant struggles and injustices. Anger can literally cripple us. August taught that if we can expose our wounds God can meet us there and restore life and create new life based on our identity as beloved. How does this idea land for you? Do you believe it? Have you experienced it? Do you struggle with this or find hope in it?