

TALK IT OVER

SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

Note to the Host: Thanks for leading your group and being willing to create community! Remember, this is your group, and you have the freedom to navigate the conversation that best fits your group's dynamic.

ICEBREAKER:

- Have you ever regifted a present? If so, what was the gift? (Feel free to pass if the person is in the group) ☺

QUESTIONS:

These questions are based off the sermon that took place on Sunday. In this time, feel free to revisit any of the scripture that was discussed in the message. Answer as many questions as your time allows and don't feel pressed to get through them all if running long.

1. How do you think most people would finish the sentence, "The church is full of people who are _____"?
2. The church is most appealing when grace is most apparent. What would need to change for people to see the church as appealing? Do you have a part in that solution?
3. **Read Matthew 7:3-5.**
 - If you were asked to explain Jesus' meaning to a young child, what would you say? How would you summarize his questions and challenge?
 - What do you think are the most common "planks" that prevent people from seeing clearly? Which of those planks do you identify with most? Is there someone that can help you identify the "planks" you may not see?
4. What person or group of people is most difficult for you to extend grace to? Why? Does the sin of that person/people break your heart or disgust you? What's the difference?
5. Jesus was full of grace and truth. What are you full of? What comes out of you when you are shaken up by a relationship or circumstance?
6. How does remembering that grace was extended to you shift your perspective from an "opposition" encounter to an "opportunity" encounter?

NEXT STEPS:

- Talk with your group and plan when you will gather around the holidays?
 - What Candlelight service will your families attend? Which ones will your serve?
- Who are the three people that I will invite to our candlelight services this week? (Write their names below and pray for them as a group)

PRAYER:

Please don't stress about the time of prayer, pray however your group feels comfortable. This can either be one person pray, or you can go in a circle and have each person pray a few sentences! Be sure to change it up so your prayer time stays fresh in your group.

- Make sure that everyone has a chance to share.
- Encourage and welcome all praise reports!
- Have someone type your requests up so the group can recall them throughout the week.

December 19, 2021