

Into the Deep- Week 8 Small Group Questions

Ask:

1. Start your time together by listing five reasons why you are so humble.
KIDDING!
2. When you consider the different communities you are part of, how are the cultures of those communities unique? (behaviors, beliefs, values)
3. Did you grow up in this area of the country? If not, what is different about here than where you are from? What have you observed if you have traveled to other parts of the country and world?
4. When thinking about the culture of a church community, what characteristics do you believe are the most valuable?

Read:

Phil. 2:3-11, Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Ask:

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. How do you define humility, and why do you think God sees it as necessary?
3. Which of the commands listed by Paul do you have the most challenging time living out currently?

4. Pastor Ryan said humility is not humble bragging, insecurity, or being unopinionated. Do you agree? Have you found yourself doing one or all of these? Can you think of other things that humility isn't?

Read:

Luke 18:9-14, Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Ask:

1. Have you ever caught yourself being guilty of spiritual arrogance? How can we fight against the temptation to believe we are better than others?
2. Pastor Ryan said, “The truly humble are always aware of their sin and complete unworthiness, and they cast themselves completely on the mercy and grace of God, recognizing that without God’s forgiveness, God’s grace, God’s love, God’s patience, all through Christ's death on the cross we are nothing, and we have no hope in this life or the next because there is nothing we can do apart from Christ to save ourselves.” Do you agree with him?
3. Why is it so important to remind ourselves of our unworthiness? Does that mean we should beat ourselves up and constantly feel like horrible people?

Read:

Mark 9:35-37, “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.” Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my

behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

Ask:

1. How can a life of service and sacrifice be more fulfilling than a life of power, popularity, and position? If that's true, why do you think people don't spend more time serving than taking selfies, making TikTok videos, or fighting for political power?
2. Do you struggle with the idea of serving versus being known?
3. Who would you say is the most humble person you know? What makes them humble?

Apply:

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. Please share with your group an area of life that might struggle with humility, remembering that all of us are a work in progress. Commit to praying for each other and that God would free you from the temptation of pride.
3. Ask the Lord to provide an opportunity this week to selflessly, without recognition, give of yourself. Share with your group next week about the opportunity God gave you, knowing you aren't bragging to them but rejoicing in the opportunity God gave you to serve for His glory.