



spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

THE ONE WHERE WE START SOMETHING NEW

READ: MARCO POLO – UNICORNS

Near the end of the 13th century, while traveling through the Indonesian islands, the now-famous explorer Marco Polo came upon a strange animal that he believed was a unicorn.

Throughout history, unicorns have been described as majestic horses with pure white coats with a single magical horn protruding from their foreheads. In the Middle Ages, unicorns were seen as a symbol of purity, and people's fascination with them hasn't waned. Today, you can find artists' interpretations of unicorns depicted nearly everywhere.

Based on Marco Polo's journal entries from the trip, he not only believed in unicorns, but he wholeheartedly believed he had found one. But what he described wasn't like anything we might expect. He wrote that they had "hair like that of a buffalo, feet like an elephant, and a horn in the middle of the forehead, which is black and very thick". He would go on to say, "The head resembles that of a wild boar, and they carry it ever bent towards the ground. They delight much to abide in mire and mud." Based on Polo's description, historians believe what he discovered wasn't the mythical unicorn ... instead, it is widely held that what he was describing was the Sumatran Rhinoceros.

Just like Marco Polo ... sometimes when we discover something new, it isn't always what we expect it will be. You might have some expectations about what discipleship might look like or feel like, but we want to encourage you to trust wherever God's Spirit leads you in this new adventure.

STUDY: 2nd Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

In his letter to those who had chosen to follow Jesus in Corinth, the Apostle Paul penned these words, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come." The idea he was expressing in his letter has to do with what God begins to do in your life after you choose Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Paul says that when that occurs, something else begins to happen; the old life you have begins to fade away, and a new life begins to bloom. In this series of Discipleship conversations, the goal is to intentionally help the new life that Paul describes continue to grow in the life of a new believer.

By beginning this discipleship relationship, you are forming an intentional mentoring relationship that is designed to help you grow and become more and more like Christ. And the more you become like Christ, the more your “old life” begins to fade, and your “new life” begins to take root.

In this series of conversations, the focal point will be on helping those who are brand new or young in their faith learn the building blocks and basics of what it means to follow Jesus. Through these conversations, we will explore key concepts of Christianity and the core teachings of Jesus, which will give us a solid foundation for our new faith.

DISCUSS:

- What was the last “new” thing you tried?
- What’s one difficult thing about following Jesus in this season?
- What are you hoping or expecting to get from these discipleship conversations?
- What do you think Paul means in 2nd Corinthians 5:17, when he says “the old has gone and the new is here”?

CHALLENGE:

- Take a few minutes and share the story of how God has moved in your life. This is sometimes referred to as your testimony.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOING FORWARD:

We recommend setting a regular weekly time to meet and have a discipleship conversation. Prioritize this meeting and do your best to keep this gathering each week. It’s okay if you miss a week for holidays, being out of town, or someone being sick, but commit to the habit of meeting together.

As far as which conversation you should have first, that’s up to you. Look over the list together and pick the ones that interest you the most. However, there’s one caveat: if you start a conversation that has multiple parts, make sure you finish all of the parts before moving on to a new conversation. When you’ve finished all of the conversations in this phase, move on to the next phase.

As you have these conversations, continue to connect throughout the week. We want to encourage you to pray for one another and always encourage one another, not just when you gather for these conversations. If you have additional questions about any of the conversations, make sure you reach out to one of the Pastors at the church. We are so excited about the new thing that God is going to grow in you!