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Family



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

10 & 11 SEP 2022

“HURT AND HEALING IN THE FAMILY” (PART 2)

GENESIS 3.1-6, EPHESIANS 3.14-21

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group's current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. The root of sin is relational, that is, our rejection of God. We see this beginning in Gen 3.1-6, where Satan tempted Eve to reject God. Starting from this Fall of humankind, the rest of the Bible and the history of the world give ample description of how human relationships have been damaged by sin. Today, as in Gen 3, Satan still tempts us to believe the lie that we are being shortchanged or neglected or rejected by God.

a. Read Psalm 103.8-17 together as a group. How does this truth of Scripture reshape your mind and your heart against Satan's lies?

b. How can we have confidence that it is Jesus who has the final victory over sin and Satan? See Gen 3:15, Rev 12:7-11.

3. Sometimes we are tempted by a fear of rejection. As mentioned in the sermon, this shows up when we try to shape ourselves in another person's image so as to seek others' approval. However, the truth is that we are made in God's very image (see last week's sermon discussion guide).

a. Are there situations where you are tempted to shape yourself in someone's image, out of a fear of rejection? Share with each other.

b. Scripture affirms that you are lovingly formed by God, in his own image. What practical difference does this make to you?

4. In Ephesians 3:14-21, Paul prays for Christians who were familiar with intense persecution (see Acts 19). Given their trials and challenges, the Ephesian Christians could have been tempted to reject God, or could have easily thought they were rejected by God. Yet Paul prays for them, that they might know the love of God that surpasses knowledge.

a. Have you been tempted to self-rejection?

i) Read verses 18-20. What does it mean to you, that God wants to manifest to us the full extent of his love, and to fill us with all his fullness?

ii) Would you stand on the truth that God's power is at work within you, in ways over and beyond your imagination?

b. Have you been tempted to a rejection of others? That is, to be blinded to others' worth as made in God's image? To be tempted to interact with others without consideration for their thoughts, perspectives, or feelings?

i) Verse 18 expresses that the knowledge of God's great love is to be grasped together with all the Lord's holy people ('saints'). How does this help us to not reject others but to value them? How can we support one another in living this out?

Prayer Items

5. Consider joining together in the following prayer:

Father God, I repent for rejecting you and your word.

Forgive me, Lord, for not believing that You love and accept me.

I repent of taking things into my own hands, my pride, stubbornness, self-will, and rebellion.

I renounce and reject all rejection of God and the spirit of darkness behind it.

I break every word and agreement made with the power of darkness inciting rebellion against God.

I repent of all deception and lying, suspicion of others, mistrust, control and manipulation.

I am sorry, God, for seeking to please people rather than living to please you.

I repent of rejecting myself, and resisting your plan for my life.

I repent of trying to be someone I was never meant to be, and of seeking the approval of others.

Lord Jesus, today I choose to receive your love for me and who I am meant to be.

I choose today to accept your Word and Your ways for my life.

Father God, I repent of rejecting others.

For being unforgiving, resentful and bitter toward others.

I choose today, so help me God, to be a person of acceptance, and not rejection.

6. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.