

Doing Life Together

1. What can our small group do to aid each other through the more confusing times of life, where things aren't clear, where uncertainty reigns and difficulties arise? What do we need to learn about entrusting ourselves to God in these circumstances?

Close in prayer about the issues you discussed together.

Prayer Requests



Graeme & Serena Rattray – Mission Trip to Thailand with EFCCM's Larry & Diane Willems – Feb 16-26



Pray for:

- Preparation of their hearts for the reality of the things they will see an experience
- That they would be an encouragement to Larry & Diane and national believers
- That everything they do there would be out of love that comes from Jesus
- Health, protection, and provision for all their needs



Service Opportunities

Nursery volunteers

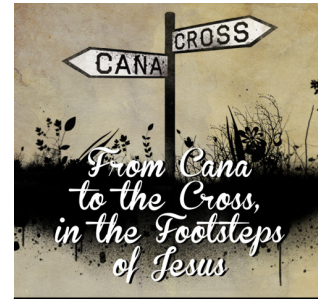
Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Study. Contact Lyn or the church office
Wednesday evening Divorce Care. Contact Tanya or the church office

Graeme Rattray's Worship CD release

The worship songs we've come to enjoy. Saturday, Feb 4th @ 7pm at the church. Hear how 'Love Mercy, Do Justice' will help in the Garden of Hope rescue house in Thailand.

Newcomers Ministry Meeting

For all present and interested volunteers. Potluck lunch following 2nd service on Feb 5th. Contact Jen or the church office for further details.



January 22, 2012

Sermon Notes

John 2:12-25

When life doesn't make sense?

Jesus' signs and actions illicit two kinds of belief

The belief of His Disciples

James 5:11
Hebrews 10:35-39

The belief of The Many

John 1:12
John 6:26

Jesus requires his followers to trust what they Know Of Him, not what they Want From Him

Psalm 46:1-3
Habakkuk 3:17-19
Psalm 42:11
Matthew 11:28-30
Matthew 9:36
Hebrews 13:5-6
Colossians 3:1-3

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

Home Bible Fellowship Study Questions

Thinking Things Through

1. Did you have any questions from Sunday's sermon? If so, what were they?
2. John makes a point of the fact that the disciples often didn't get what was happening or what Jesus meant until after his death and resurrection. This tendency to not understand what we're going through or what the Bible stories are about is not unique to them. How do you experience this in your life?

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss amongst yourselves what you know about the story of Joseph recorded between Genesis 37-50. You might have to do a quick 'skim' of the pages and note the chapter headings. Make a list of events using one phrase or word to describe the whole event.
Leader: Joseph was Jacob's son and the great grandson of Abraham. He was his father's favorite son and therefore despised by his other brothers. Jealousy made them attempt to kill him by throwing him into a watering hole in the ground (cistern). He was rescued by slave traders who took him to Egypt. Through a series of divine interventions he would often see success in what he did and manage to rise above his stature, only to be crushed down by circumstances beyond his control (he was framed). Eventually he becomes the right hand man of Pharaoh and God reveals to him that a severe famine is coming to the land. He begins to prepare Egypt for this. Years later, during the famine his own brothers come to Egypt for food. Joseph is reconciled to his brothers and his father and his family relocates to Egypt, thus being saved from starvation. It is one of the greatest stories of reconciliation and grace, but also a profound demonstration of how God's hand works in hardship and the value of personal integrity in the midst of life's trials.
2. Read Genesis 50:22-26 and then look back at verse 20. Verse 20 is essentially a summary of Joseph's lifelong learning - the lesson God taught him. At what point do you think it became clear to Joseph that helping to fulfill God's plan for Israel was indeed God's purpose for his life?

Leader: Look at Gen 37:6-10 - In his dreams, he sees that one day his family will bow down to him. He would know that one day he would be greater than them but he did not know how or when, therefore this would be the agonizing question... 'Is it now Lord?'

What parts of your life don't make sense right now?

Leader: This doesn't have to be about hardship. It might be about life's transitions, career decisions, family issues, an inability to find a spouse, having a job that is fulfilling, or the struggle to achieve long-term goals, etc.

3. How does Joseph's story and what he learned at the end of his life in Genesis 50:20 offer some assurance that there's hope when we can't see the end or understand the 'whys'?

Leader: God had a plan to rescue Israel from the drought that no one could have seen. Even the evil intent of the brothers God was able to use to accomplish his plans.

4. Share amongst yourselves certain "Aha" moments where God has led you through challenges in life and then revealed a larger plan regarding these challenging times, at a later point? What lessons did you learn?

5. If you're still left with lots of unanswered questions and things don't really make sense right now, how long might you have to wait so you too can say what Joseph did in Genesis 50:20?

6. Discuss with each other issues in life that currently cause you the proverbial "sleepless night".

Leader: This is an opportunity for the people in your group to get to know each other. Take as much time as you need. If advice is offered from people in your group steer the conversation towards loving words of comfort and away from judgments and accusations.

7. Life often doesn't make sense to us. However, it is in the difficult times of life where we grow the most and learn to live in community properly and depend on God the most. Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10. What does Paul say about the discipline of waiting in faith for God to move, answer prayer, or reveal his will that is important in the process of our spiritual development?

Is this process for our benefit or for the benefit of the Kingdom of God?

Leader: Our lives are not our own. Everything that shapes us is designed for our personal growth within the larger picture of God's kingdom. When we embrace this process and live for a cause bigger than ourselves, Jesus entrusted himself to us and we are used more and more.