



P.A.S.S. SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Participation

Do you remember your first time at Sunridge? What was it like? Did you feel welcomed?

Application

Jed shared the story about Peter walking on water (Matt. 14:22-33) and contrasted it with his declaration of who he realized Jesus was (Matt. 16:12-20). The purpose of those stories was to point out that sometimes we're under the impression that God is expecting us to do something so huge (like Peter walking on water) when God truly just wants us to make a decision about who Jesus Christ is. Why is it more meaningful to do truly understand who Jesus is?

Have you ever felt like you're not qualified enough to do anything for God – perhaps because you think the expectation is something too huge?

Scripture

Read Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:1, and Galatians 5:13-26. What changes when we begin to understand that Jesus sets us free for a purpose? What are some of the purposes outlined in the above passages? What would change about our church if we really took those passages to heart?

Sharing

Who are some of friends, family members, or neighbors who need us to be better inviters and includers? How can we be praying for each other and encouraging each other to take that step of faith and courage?



HOW TO BE INVITERS AND INCLUDERS (Acts 2:42-47)

I. The Bible's answer to how we can be inviters and includers:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in purpose and spirit. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each one of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as Jesus (Phil. 2:1-5). We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brother or sister, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also (1 John 4:19-21). And we urge you, beloved, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else (1 Thess. 5:14-15). For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom to indulge in sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Gal. 5:13-14). May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God (Rom. 15:5-7). Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the



unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3). And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb. 10:24-25). Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength that God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and power forever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:8-11).

II. We don't just need to hear how's, however, we need to understand why.

They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were being done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

III. The early church wasn't just a community that decided they were going to live radically transformed lives.



IV. The early church was comprised of individuals who knew that Jesus was the Savior (i.e. The Messiah, the Christ) and accordingly chose to repent, be baptized in his name (Acts 2:37-39), and were given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

V. Let's understand who Jesus is and what that means for us.

a. When we understand who Jesus is – Savior and Lord – it changes everything.

Jesus isn't just a personal savior; he is the Savior of the world.

b. Our relationship with Jesus has personal aspects, but it is not private; in other words, it's not just something we can accept and then never share with people around us.

c. We are expected to participate in the great commission (Matt. 28:16-20) and the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:14-6:1).

d. Jesus saves us and frees us from our sin; let's live like this is real – because it is!

VI. The things during our personal time with Jesus are for the benefit of the whole of our lives.

a. The reason we spend time reading Scripture and being in prayer isn't just for our good; it prepares us to be with believers when we gather together so that we can mutually encourage each other.

b. If we're going to be inviters and includers, we need to know what we're inviting and including them to be a part of – how can that happen if we aren't spending time in God's Word and in prayer?

VII. Let's pray that we continue to walk in the Spirit.



- a. The early church was transformed because they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- b. In the Old Testament, God's Spirit comes upon prophets or kings for a certain amount of time and then leaves.
- c. In the New Testament, however, we are permanently filled with the Holy Spirit; God dwells within us, giving us the power to walk in the Spirit and bear fruit.
- d. The fruit of the Spirit isn't just for us, but for the good of those around us (Gal. 6:13-26).
- e. Let's pray that we walk in the Spirit and conduct ourselves in a manner that points to the fact that we've been set free, and we want people to experience that freedom as well.
- f. From the way we smile to the way we greet, every interaction is an opportunity to walk in the Spirit.