



Dig Deeper @Home – “Tough Questions”

Complement to sermon - 10/14/2018 – “Does God want me to be happy?”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. When do you feel the happiest? The most unhappy?
2. Imagine you invent the ability to teleport anywhere in milliseconds. Would you keep it to yourself so that you and you alone can use it, market it to become the next billionaire or share it freely?

MEMORIZE – 1st Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

READ – John 15-17

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. What is the significance of John 15:11? Why does Jesus say He has spoken “these things?” What are the “these things” that Jesus is referring to have spoken?
4. What other reasons does Jesus give for sharing these words in chapters 15-17 with his disciples? (hint: 15:17, 16:1, 16:4, 16:33, 17:13)
 - a. How are these all ultimately related to the reasons given in 15:11?
 - b. Jesus says he gives us these words to keep us from falling away (16:1).
 - i. What would tempt us from falling away?
 - ii. And what is He concerned of us falling away from? (hint: remember, he’s talking about his followers having a life of joy & peace)
 - iii. What things offer joy and peace that we might be seeking after or want to seek after?)
5. We all want joy and peace. In seeking for joy, many of us go after things which promise joy and peace, but in reality, leave us unfulfilled.
 - a. What are some examples of this? What about in your own life?
 - b. According to Jesus, what is needed to correct our worldly ways of seeking joy? (hint: John 17: 14-19)
 - c. What steps do you need to take to be sanctified by God’s truth? (if you don’t know what sanctified means, take time to look it up)

Experiential: Pumpkin Parable

In Sunday's sermon, we discovered that holiness is the passageway to happiness. Another way to put this is that when we trust Jesus and follow His ways, we'll discover true happiness. This process involves sanctification (John 17:17). Here's an activity to help us relate to sanctification.

1. For this activity you will need two pumpkins to make two jack-o-lanterns.
2. For one pumpkin, skip the typical step of cleaning out the inside gunk. Rather, simply cut out the elements for the face (eyes, nose, mouth, eyebrows, etc) and the opening on the top for your candle.
3. For the other pumpkin, spend time cleaning out the gunk. Share that this is like the process of sanctification. Just as we scoop out the muck inside the pumpkin, God cleans us up from the inside out. After cleaning it all out, make your face and put a candle in.
4. Take time thinking about these questions...
 - a. Which pumpkin represents a worldly way of seeking happiness? God's way?
 - b. What's going to happen to the pumpkin that wasn't cleaned out? (For added effect, check out a week or 2 later to see) How is that similar to the results of worldly ways of seeking happiness?
5. How do you need to reorient your life to seek happiness God's ways? What does this look like specifically?

Testimony Time

Share an example of how you have seen God at work in answering prayer or in giving you grace to walk in life trusting God.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

O Happy Day - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zT8AyfsFmA>

Sing along or just listen. Either way, this song will lift your spirits!

Joyful, Joyful, We adore Thee – Mennonite Hymnal #13

Sing all 4 verses of this great hymn.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and how this group can join you in prayer.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Jesus, you came to give us life and to give it abundantly. Guide us by your Holy Spirit to have abundant lives your way. Fill us with your love so that we lovingly share this abundance with all those around us and help to lead them to you. Amen.