

Dig Deeper @Home – “Mistaken Identities”

Complement to sermon on 7/21/2019 – “The Righteousness of God”

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

1. What is your favorite ‘scapegoat’ to blame when things go wrong?
2. What is something in your past that you were blamed for that wasn’t your fault??

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God find their “Yes” in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

READ – Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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. As you read 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Apostle Paul seems to have in mind the *Day of Atonement* in the Old Testament and the idea of a ‘scapegoat’ being brought forward to carry the sins of the people. Read *Leviticus 16:7-10, 20-22*. The role of the two goats shows us that no single offering could characterize the sacrifice of Christ, “the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) What aspect of the atonement is symbolized by the goat that is killed? What distinct aspect of Christ is typified by the scapegoat?
4. Read *Leviticus 16:34*. What does the fact that the *Day of Atonement* took place only once a year tell you about human nature? As important as this Day was to Israel for restoring a correct relationship with God, how much more important and lasting is Christ’s ‘once for all’ sacrifice? (read *Hebrews 9:11-10:14*)
5. Read *Isaiah 53:4-6*. How do these verses further clarify what Jesus, as the Suffering Servant came to accomplish for us? What do these verses say was the purpose of Christ’s suffering on our behalf? From these verses how would you explain to someone else the meaning of Jesus death and resurrection? How does it bring reassurance to you of God’s forgiveness and love?

Experiential – The Blame Game

The idea of this game is to get participants to start improvising in an imaginary situation where they can pass the baton of blame on very quickly and particularly suits those who love to pass the buck. This should be done in a very light hearted way and the misdemeanor/accident should be very light hearted. e.g. “Let the dog out” or “Ate my snack out of the refrigerator that had my name on it.”

The leader introduces the “situation “and accuses one of the participants sat in the circle e.g. I’ve come into the house this morning and realized that someone had let the dog out last night, and I’ve heard that you James particularly like dogs. James would then reply stating that it could not have possibly been him as he had, for example, never seen the dog but he did hear that Sarah had a dog. Sarah might say James was mistaken and that she has a cat and not a dog. If students are very shy, they could just say it was not me it was x etc. Go around the circle until everyone has been included in the “blame game.”

What did it feel like to be blamed for something and how did you respond? How does this compare to the blame Jesus took for our sins and how did he respond?

Testimony Time

Take turns remembering how God has come into your life and met you recently in a special way. Encourage each other by giving thanks to God for his faithfulness and love for us.

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

Jesus, Messiah - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4xgAKZOqjs>

As you worship Christ through this song, reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:21 and give thanks to God for His love and forgiveness.

Man of Sorrows, What a Name – Mennonite Hymnal #561

Give thanks to God for Christ’s atoning sacrifice as you sing this great hymn of our faith.

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 where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Gracious and merciful God, I praise you for atoning for my sins through the blood of Jesus, the “Lamb of God” who takes away the sin of the world. I thank you Father, that through Jesus, you not only forgave my sins, but you cleansed me from all unrighteousness and gave me great hope and a bright future. May I invite you to live through me today in the power of your Holy Spirit. For your glory! Amen.