



Dig Deeper @Home – “I Pledge Allegiance ...” Complement to lesson on 04/25/21 – “To God over Convenience”

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

1. Share a time when you made a decision you later regretted because it seemed “easier” at the moment. Why did you make that choice? What would you do differently if you had the chance?
2. What is one invention you couldn’t live without? Why is it so convenient to have?

MEMORIZE – James 3: 17-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

READ James 2:14-26

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
3. What can we learn about either God or the state of humanity through this passage?
4. It has been argued that this passage in James contradicts the teachings of Paul elsewhere in the Bible. What do you think? Read: Romans 3:19-5:2 / Galatians 2:15-3:14 / Ephesians 2:1-9
5. A surface level reading of some of the above passages may leave you scratching your head... how can they be reconciled with James 2? Remember we must take Scripture in context, so take a minute and read Ephesians 2:10. Immediately following Paul’s statement that we are saved by faith and not works, Ephesians 2:10 says we were created in Christ Jesus for _____ . (Fill in the blanks.) How does reading one more verse forward in Ephesians 2 change your thoughts?
6. Is it safe to say we are saved by faith but works are the natural outgrowth of that living faith, “fruit” of a relationship with God? What does Jesus say about fruit in John 15:1-8?

Experiential activity – Convicted to Action

As we strive to be “doers of the Word and not hearers only” we come face to face with the fact that our stated beliefs don’t always line up with our actions. When the Holy Spirit brings these inconsistencies to light, we should not feel condemned, but instead respond in thankfulness that we have been given a chance to come out of the darkness and walk in the light, allowing conviction to inspire change with the help of God.

Take a few minutes this week to pray over and review Finland’s “Statement of Faith.”

<http://finlandmc.org/about/beliefs/>

If we truly believed these statements, what action would we be taking? In what areas do you see personal strength? Weakness? In what ways are you being called to action? Some examples may be a conviction to focus more on evangelism, build deeper communion with fellow believers, spend more time in Scripture, be more intentional about serving those around you, or a call to be baptized and publicly commit your life to Christ for the first time. Read over the Scriptures associated with the area you feel called to focus on, and share what you find with a trusted brother or sister in Christ.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mECQOt2z7mw>

Mercy Tree - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07lDxRvaol4>

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - (Mennonite Hymnal #311)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKXp5SXAKgk>

Listen: Seventh Day Slumber – I Need You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnBmUbp1p2k>

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:

As you face the week ahead, may you choose the way of Christ even when it is not easy or convenient. May the same power that raised Jesus from the grave work in and through you to empower you to put your faith into action, extending His love to a lost and hurting world.