

Dig Deeper @Home – “Real and Authentic”

Complement to lesson on 5/26/24 – “Real and Authentic Community”

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

1. What is one way your parents made a sacrifice for you?
2. How did you feel about that unselfish sacrifice then? Now?

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

READ – 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about people? And in light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. What led Paul to write this letter (vv. 11-13)? How have the false “super apostles” distorted his ministry (see also 2:17; 11:17)?
3. How does Paul distance himself from these “super apostles”? As you read vv. 14-15, what must Paul be feeling as he thinks about the Corinthians?
4. What do Paul’s questions (vv. 17-19) reveal about his intentions versus their perception of Paul? How would you feel about visiting a ministry which you love which is behaving like verses 20-21?
5. To whom is God leading you to minister? How can you demonstrate to them the spirit of vv. 14–15? What will that perhaps cost you?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – “Spending for Someone”

As we seek to apply what God is saying to us as we read 2 Corinthians 12, it is apparent that Paul was willing to “gladly spend” and be “spent” for the people in Corinth to come to know Jesus. Ask God to put one person on your mind and heart this week. And then ask God to give you an idea how you can “spend” on them in some way in the days ahead. Who needs you to show God’s love to them by “spending” some portion of your time or resources as an expression of your genuine care for them? Who, in the places where you live, work, play or go to school is God placing in your life to “gladly spend” so that they may come to know Jesus?

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

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty – https://youtu.be/Dg9ZiJ6_5Fw (Mennonite Hymnal #5)

I Love you Lord - <https://youtu.be/nZSPIHkbABo>

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord - <https://youtu.be/DSzhxk4i1DQ>

Christ our Hope in Life and Death - <https://youtu.be/dlcOZSlyFh8>

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 message:

As you go forward into this next week “may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)