

Volunteer Sign Ups

As you pray about activating and engaging in the church as part of the body of Christ, consider signing up to serve as a volunteer! It is an honor and true blessing to serve others and be an active part of the mission of the church. We currently have many areas in need!





RECAPTURING JESUS' VISION FOR HIS CHURCH

Week 6 | We Should Be Authentic Followers of Christ | Colossians 3:8-17, Matthew 5:13-16

IN A CULTURE SO DIVIDED, GOD'S CHURCH IS WHERE YOU SHOULD FIND REAL UNITY

The church should be a place of safety where all believers can take shelter and grow. Since we are all at different places spiritually and emotionally it can lead to comparison and insecurity. Many people choose to cover up the difficulties and inconsistencies in their lives and act like everything is fine. These areas are not only hidden from others but can sometimes be hidden from one's own awareness. These "shadowy" places tend to seep out through poor attitudes, choices and behaviors. This can lead to being wounded or causing wounds to others. This is often referred to as hypocrisy. God wants us to walk in a place of integrity, transparency, love and accountability. It is in this well-tended garden that we and others can grow safely.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: **Pray, Reflect, and Reach.** Keep in mind the time allowances. In the **Reflect** section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

Pray as a life group over this week's message. Ask God to reveal real ways to live out the message of the gospel in our everyday lives with authenticity.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. There were 2 skits and a spoken word video this week. The first demonstrated how gossip by believers sounds to the world, as well as inconsistency between our words and behavior. The second showed a family in crisis where parents were teaching their kids how to live in hypocrisy. Finally, the spoken word video showed an angry response to people who call themselves believers but are not generous and kind.

How did God speak to you through these performances?

2. Read and discuss Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

3. What's the difference between hypocrisy and making a mistake?

4. **Read and discuss Colossians 3:8-14**

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

5. Many times the behaviors and wounds we have are deeply ingrained. If we continue to hide them and pretend to be something we are not, it is as though these things remain hidden from the light of God. He loves you exactly as you are and wants you to be healed. Allow your brothers and sisters to know you and pray along with you as you find freedom from the areas that cause you to live with inconsistency.

PRAY TOGETHER for God to move in your heart and to give you the courage to walk in freedom and honesty. Ask God to help you break habits that are inconsistent with the light of the gospel.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Colossians 3:14

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.



REACH (5 min)

Pray for one another this week for integrity and authenticity in every area of life.