

BIBLE VERSES

Question 1

Isaiah 55:1 ESV - 1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Question 2

Colossians 1:13-14 NLT - 13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Philippians 3:18-21 NIV - 18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Question 3

Romans 12:1 ESV - 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Question 4

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV - 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

James 5:16 ESV - 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Question 5

Mark 10:45 ESV - 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

“Loving What Jesus Loves”

Hidden Heart week #3

INTRODUCTION

To love the things that Jesus loves requires us to have a heart that desires what Jesus loves. But we have found that our heart's desires are not always God's desires. If we want to love what Jesus loves, we need to reshape the desires of our heart. The church can play a major role in helping us to do this. It is the place where we have the opportunity, and the support, to engage in regular practices that move us further in our faith journey and draw us nearer to the kingdom of God.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is your favorite part of Sunday Services?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

What We Hunger and Thirst For

Q1. Read Isaiah 55:1

The story of your life, with its daily routines and patterns, is a reflection of what you truly desire and how you pursue it. We might say we are hungry or thirsty for those things. If you haven't already done so, review the rhythms of your day and see if they reflect God. What do you think an outside observer to your life would say you hunger and thirst for? Do your routines and practices give God an ample opportunity to shape your heart's desire? Name one thing you can change to increase God's presence in your everyday routine.

How the Kingdom Shapes Us

Q2. Read Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:18-21

We can't "think" our way into new hungers, we need to be trained into them. God invites us to be part of a body of believers, the church, so that together our practices and observances can grow us as Christ's disciples. How does Colossians 1:13-14 characterize the two opposing forces that war for our citizenship? In Philippians 3:20 Paul tells us our citizenship is in heaven. But we know that we need to be trained to move from the practices and habits of the kingdom of darkness into

new practices so loaded with the Gospel that practicing them pulls us back toward God and his kingdom.

The Role of Weekend (corporate) Services

Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts – reforms our desires, and rehabituates[adjusts] our loves” – James K.A. Smith

Q3. Read Romans 12:1

What are some of the hurdles you commonly face just to regularly attend Weekend Worship Services? Worship has become synonymous with music, but that’s not its original definition. In fact, several words are translated as “worship” in the Bible. Consider these various biblical ways to express worship- bow down, prostrate, honor, serve, praise, devotion, show reverence.

What would you say is the reason you go to church? When we gather as a church body, we are shaped by the teaching but also by expressions of worship including songs testimonies communion, baptism etc. In his book “You Are What You Love” James K. A. Smith says God “recalibrates our hearts” through worship. Did you realize that showing up to worship puts you in a position for God to do His work in you? Have you ever felt changed when you worshiped God? If so, describe that experience.

The Role of Community

Q4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25; James 5:16

“The Church” is not merely a building, it is a body of believers. When we gather in small groups we are coming together as “the church” in community. Hebrews 10:24 tells us to stir up one another to love and good works. What are some ways you might do that in a small group? In the small group setting we have an opportunity to support each other through prayer and also in confession. What is one benefit of that according to James 5:16? How would the regular practice of gathering together, encouraging, confessing and praying together change your heart?

The Role of Serving

Q5. Read Mark 10:45

One final practice that will shape our heart towards the things Jesus loves is in performing acts of service. What does Mark 10:45 tell us about Jesus’ heart to serve? When we lay aside our own needs and give to others, especially alongside other believers, we are reflecting

God’s love. Service can take many forms. List out some of the ways your group might be involved in service to God (this can include actively engaging in ministry, or lending support through prayer, or gifts)?

THE BOTTOM LINE

If we are to love what Jesus loves, we need to reform our desires to reflect His desires. That takes more than knowing what He desires, it involves retraining our hearts. The church is a key component to regularly engaging in practices and habits that will move us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. We gather corporately on weekends to worship God and be changed by Him through songs of praise and sacraments (like communion and baptism). In smaller group settings we have the perfect opportunity to encourage one another and to confess our needs and pray together. And if we embrace the habit of serving together we have the opportunity to show God’s love and experience His heart of service for those in need. Regularly putting these habits into practice will keep our lives on course, pointed in the direction of God and His Kingdom.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

This week engage in the community of believers through weekend services. As you sing praises, recognize you are worshiping God. Open yourself to be changed by Him. Meet with a small group of believers to encourage and pray for one another. And seek a place to serve God together, allowing your heart to be spent upon the needs of others, just as Christ did.

MEMORY VERSE

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
Proverbs 4:23 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you will apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs:

***** GOING FURTHER ON YOUR OWN *****

Journal your experiences this week. Where did you see God show up?