

L I F E G R O U P C U R R I C U L U M
GET REAL...
Connection Question.

Has anyone ever complimented you by calling you a “Christian”? How did that make you feel?

GET DEEP...
Overview:

In session 3 of our series, In Jesus Name, we continue to examine the model of prayer left for us by Jesus. We discovered that Matthew 6:9-13 provides us with a great framework on which we can build. Let's look at a few more aspects of prayer and our walk with Christ.

**Digging Deep & Discovery Questions...
(Answer as many as time allows)**

It's pretty clear that we are called to “...live as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6). This week we will learn how surrendering ourselves and remaining focused on the present is essential to our spiritual growth and walk with Christ.

Just like in Bible times, this world is filled with incredible athletes, influential leaders and rich and famous people. How do we know whose footsteps to follow? Let's explore what scripture has to say about the people influencing us and the role models we look up to.

1. Read 3 John 1:11. It seems obvious that we should not imitate evil, right? So what might this scripture be saying about the tendencies of man? What do you think it means when it says “whoever does evil has not seen God”?
2. Read Proverbs 1:10. This scripture suggests we can all be enticed by evil men. If that's the case, how can we safe guard against such enticement?
3. Read Psalm 1:1. Notice that in this scripture the believer goes from walking to standing to sitting. What might this suggest spiritually about following the wrong crowd?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 11:1. What does this scripture

tell us about the type of person(s) who should be our role models? Who are your role models now? How do they compare?

Surrendering to God is the starting point for anyone seeking to commit their lives to Christ. However, it might be said that some practice surrender more than others. What does complete surrender to God look like?

1. Read Matthew 16:24 then read the following quote. “Surrendering to God is a question of being united with Jesus in His death until nothing ever appeals to you that did not appeal to Him” ~ Oswald Chambers. How different might your life look if you really took this notion to heart?
2. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What kinds of burdens are you currently struggling with? In this scripture Jesus says, if we take his yoke upon us we will find rest for our souls. What do you think He means? How does complete surrender play a part in this?

It's easy to get caught up in past or future events. When that happens, we lose sight of the present. Let's learn about what the bible has to say about this subject.

1. Read Matthew 6:34. How does concerning ourselves with the future negatively affect our present?
2. Read Philippians 3:13. As a persecutor of the Church, Saul (Paul) had more reason than most to be concerned with the past. What does not letting go of the past suggest about a person's spiritual walk? Why is it unhealthy at times to rehash past events?

GET MOVING...

No man is above reproach, right? As a point of consideration throughout the week, ask a trusted friend what they think your strengths and weaknesses are, as an imitator of Christ. You may be surprised.

Memory Passage: Psalms 25:4-5, "Show me your ways Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

GET SMART... EXTRA MATERIAL**Hypostatic Union**

Over the last three weekends it has been mentioned quite often that Jesus is both God and man. This concept can be tough to grasp and has raised many questions. How was Jesus just like us if he has two complete natures—one fully human and one fully divine. How can this be?

In Christian theology this union of humanity and divinity is referred to as the Hypostatic Union. This term points to the underlying or essential substance of a thing. While "hypostatic union" may sound fancy in English, when we whittle it down to its core, hypostatic simply means - personal. The hypostatic union is the personal union of Jesus' two natures - divine and human.

The term Hypostatic is derived from the Greek term hupostasis. It appears only four times in the New Testament and according to the theologian John Piper, it was "most memorably written in Hebrews 1:3, where Jesus is said to be the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature." Here, in Hebrews, the author uses the word in reference to the oneness of God. Both the Father and the Son are of the same "nature." Jesus is "the exact imprint of his nature." However, in early church discussions, as Greek thinkers tried to find agreeable terms with those who spoke in Latin, the Greek word hupostasis came to denote not the sameness in the Godhead (God's one essence) but the distinctness (the three persons). So it began being used to refer to something like the English word, "person".

As a result of this, one-person union, Jesus Christ demonstrates a unique worthiness. This God-man satisfies the complex cravings of the human heart that no man alone could produce. God has formed the human heart in such a manner that eternal contentment can't be found with that which is human alone. The finite will never quench our thirst for the infinite. However, through Christ joining in our finite humanity, we are helped by a point of correspondence with the divine.

God was glorious long before he became a man in Jesus. As human beings, a deity wouldn't connect with us in the same way as the God who became human. The human soul we've been given will never be satisfied by the idea of a divine god who never became man.

Jesus didn't just become man because He could. He became a man for us and for our salvation. So the eternal Son of God, without ceasing to be God, took on a fully human nature. This is the incarnation and simultaneously the vehicle by which salvation becomes possible!

Related quotes & Food for thought

"If God were our one and only desire we would not be so easily upset when our opinions do not find outside acceptance." ~ *Thomas à Kempis*

I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are very wise and very beautiful; but I never read in either of them: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden." ~ *St. Augustine*

Jesus is the God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair. ~ *Blaise Pascal*

Further reading on related topics

The Imitation of Christ, by: *Thomas á Kempis*

Just Like Jesus: A Heart Like His, By: *Max Lucado*