

Unexplainable

Week 4 - Lead Sheet

ICEBREAKER

Questions: Has anyone ever spent time with a famous person or someone with a public personality? What was it like? Were they different than you thought they'd be?

Questions: Has anyone ever told you that you were a lot like a parent, sibling, or best friend? Did you try to be like that person or did it just happen over time? What are the qualities that rubbed off on you?

SILENCE

LEADER... Spend 5 minutes in silence together. Breathe deeply. Quiet your mind. Allow the worries, concerns, and distractions to dissipate from your mind.

Begin by praying this prayer with the group:

“Father, please quiet our minds and still our hearts. Protect us from the distractions that plague our thoughts stirring anxiety within our hearts. Please, fix our eyes on Jesus as we silently come before you to listen. Draw near to us. Allow us to feel your divine presence in our midst. May we be attentive to the still, small, quiet voice of your Spirit.”

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week we meditated on Psalm 139.

Questions: Did anything come from that time? Did God reveal anything to you or give you any special insight or help you see something you've never seen before? Were there ways that God's Spirit prompted you to apply what you learned?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Questions: What was Jesus like? What were some of his character qualities? How did he interact with people?

Question: Do you think it's actually possible to become like Jesus here in this life?

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

LEADER: Have a volunteer read these two passages of Scripture:

John 15:1–2 (ESV): *I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

John 15:4–5 (ESV): *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Question: According to Jesus, who is speaking in this passage of Scripture, what is the goal of every branch?

Question: According to Jesus, how do we bear fruit?

Questions: What does the word “abide” mean? How would you define it?

Questions: What do you think it means to abide in Jesus? How do we practically abide in Jesus? (*Hint: the rhythms of intimacy or spiritual disciplines)

LEADER: Have a volunteer read these three passages from Galatians:

Galatians 5:16 (ESV): *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

Galatians 5:22–25 (ESV): *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

Galatians 6:7–9 (ESV): *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

Questions: Here in Galatians Paul explains what type of fruit followers of Jesus are supposed to bear. He also gives us some direction as to how we bear fruit. What does he say? (Leaders hint: “walk by the Spirit”; “sows to the Spirit”)

Questions: How do we walk by the Spirit and sow to the Spirit? (Leaders hint: the rhythms of intimacy or spiritual disciplines)

Questions: Does anyone remember any of the rhythms of intimacy that Brady talked about? (silence, solitude, prayer, fasting, meditation, memorization, study, confession, secrecy, sabbath, celebration, gratitude, guidance, community, submission, and worship)

Questions: Has anyone here ever tried practicing any of these? What was it like?

PRACTICE - GUIDANCE

One of the rhythms of intimacy is the discipline of guidance. Guidance is listening to the Spirit of God in your heart and in the heart of other followers of Jesus allowing him to lead you into truth. Just as Jesus promises in John 16:13 *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...”*

Spend a few minutes in prayer simply listening to the Spirit. Ask God the question, “How can I abide more fully in Jesus this week? What rhythms of intimacy should I incorporate into my life this week?”

Then just listen. You may not hear anything. If you don’t that’s okay. Don’t get discouraged. But, perhaps the Spirit of God will guide your mind to some helpful insight. Perhaps a word will come to mind. Or maybe you’ll get a picture or an image of something.

Discuss this together as a group. What did you hear? What thoughts are being brought to you mind? Even if the word or image you got seems weird or odd share it with the group. Perhaps the Spirit will spark a thought in their mind that will be helpful.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

What are three ways you can abide more deeply in Jesus this coming week?

Will you commit to engaging in these three things?

Can we keep you accountable to this?

How do you want us to keep you accountable?