

“What’s going on?”

+We're excited to be hosting Secret Church on Friday April 26th from 6pm-Midnight. This year's theme is *Prayer, Fasting, and the Pursuit of God*. Secret Church is a unique, one-night event. Encouraged by our persecuted brothers and sisters' example, we will meet for over 6 hours for intense study of God's Word and passionate prayer for the persecuted. You can sign up on our website under the "events" section or by calling our office. The workbooks will be available the night of the event for \$10 each.

+ Reminder: Baptism Sunday is April 28th. Contact Chris (cwoodard@lifepointqcy.org) if you have any questions about baptism!

+Don't forget to check your Wednesday email for all that is going on at LifePoint!

E A S T E R R E F L E C T I O N

ICE BREAKER

Question: When are occasions you give a gift?

Question: What are reasons you give a gift?

Question: Have you ever given a gift for no reason? If so, what was it and how did it make you feel?

CENTERING FOCUS

Easter was Sunday.

Jesus has risen victoriously over sin, shame, and death, and there is the temptation to just go on with our day to day lives as if nothing has happened, with our lives looking no different than they did last week.

Therefore, let's take 5 minutes to meditate on 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

In meditating, reflect on how God has washed you clean, given you hope and purpose and newness of life in Christ.

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week our challenge was to pray with one other person out loud.

Question: Do you mind sharing who you chose to pray aloud with? How did it go? Was it easier than expected? More uncomfortable than expected?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION

Think of a time you were in a sporting event, a family function, a church service, etc., and as you looked around you noticed someone who stood out as not "fitting in" with the rest of the crowd.

Question: Why did that person stand out to you? What characterized them as not "fitting in?"

Question: Is there a place where you feel like you don't fit in?

Question: In your opinion, what characterizes the kind of person who would fit in with God? In your opinion, what characteristics would represent someone who does not fit in with God?

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

John 3:16 (ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that WHOSOEVER believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Question: According to this passage;

Who does God love?

What did He give to those He loves?

Why did He give this gift to those He loves?

Who will receive this gift?

What qualifies someone to receive this extremely valuable gift?

Question: Name something you own that you highly value (like something that would be one of the first things you would grab if there was a fire).

Question: Now think of someone you really care about. If you had to trade that valuable object to save his/her life, would you?

Question: Now think of someone that you have a hard time loving (someone frustrating, gets on your nerves, sucks the life out of you). Would you still offer up the valuable object to save him/her?

Question: Why is it more difficult to sacrifice for someone you don't like?

Romans 5:8-11

"...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

Question: According to this passage, what did Christ do for us? When did God show this love for us? What are the prerequisites to receiving this love?"

Take a moment and think about the worst thing you have ever done. Don't share, but just think to yourself.

Question: What emotions stir in you when you really ponder the fact that Christ died to free you from that sin and shame?

Let's take 3 minutes of silence, and after acknowledging that God knows all our unhealthy thoughts/motives/actions, take this moment to contemplate that there is God loves you so much He gave His priceless possession for you! Sins and all!

Titus 3:4-7

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Question: According to this passage, why did God save us?

Question: In your opinion, what makes someone a good person?

Question: What does it mean to be a perfect person?

Scripture tells us that perfection is required before God (Lev 18:15, Deut 32: 45-47, Matthew 5:48, James 2:10).

Question: If this were true, would any of us make the cut? Would any of us receive salvation? How does this make you feel?

Reread Titus 3:5.

Question: How many righteous acts do we have to do to for God to save us?

Romans 3:23-24

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace as a gift through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Question: In this scripture, who has sinned? How are sinners justified?

Refer back to John 3:16

Question: Who can receive eternal life?

Question: What makes it hard to believe anyone can be saved?

That is you, too! And your neighbor – and that person that you have a hard time loving – and that relative that is most annoying – and people of different race and ethnicity– and that person who doesn't act very loving – and that person – and that other person – and that person everyone who call on the name of the Lord!

NEW CHALLENGE

Ask God to lay one specific person on your mind who does not know Christ.

This week's challenge is to pray intentionally for that person 3x a day, or whenever they come to mind. Pray that their heart would be softened and they would come to receive the gift of salvation in Christ!