

ICE BREAKER

What are the connections you value the most in your life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the message was most encouraging to you? What part do you find challenging?
2. What did You notice about God in the passage? What did you notice about yourself and other people in it?

GOSPEL EXCHANGE (REDEMPTIVE WORK)

Jesus asks us to give Him our burdens (Matthew 11:28-29), whatever they may be (a lie we have believed about God or ourselves, our hurt or negative emotions, or even our concerns for loved ones), so He can carry them for us and give us His peace (wholeness and completeness) in exchange.

What do you want to exchange with Jesus today?

What is the burden? “Lord Jesus, I give you my...”

What’s His gift? “Lord Jesus, I receive your...”

ACTION QUESTIONS

1. What is one step of obedience you can take this week, based on what you’ve learned today? *(NOTE – You might consider stopping and prayerfully asking God to answer this question for you, taking 30-45 seconds to listen in silence for an answer, then write it down.)*
2. During the coming week, who is someone with whom you can share what you learned today? *(NOTE – Consider repeating the same step with this question as the previous question.)*



Sermon Study - Conversation Guide

September 24, 2023

“Incomparably Great Power”

Ephesians 1:17-23

This guide is a discipleship tool for personal reflection, family conversations, for home groups, and for Table Talk on Sundays @10:40 am and 12:15 pm on the Lowell Patio

Coastal Community Church
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So far, Paul has revealed that God is never uncertain about choosing you, wanting to be united with you relationally, as well as inviting you to be a part of His purposes in the world. That's the destiny He prepares for you. He empowers us to accomplish everything through His Holy Spirit.

1:17 *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

Wisdom from God is seeing the world in front of us and understanding what we see. Revelation is when God literally shows up, revealing Himself so we may know Jesus better. Our biggest problem with God's wisdom, revelation, and power, is that we think it applies to others but not to us.

God reveals Himself to us and we don't want what He is offering. It's not our timing. It's not aligned with our expectations, or it doesn't serve our self-interests. Thus, we can't see all the love, mercy, and grace God is giving us right now. We can't see God's revelation and wisdom because we don't want what God is offering. Paul continues...

1:18 *Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...*

Jesus owns all the heavens and numberless worlds—but we are His treasures. Do you believe you are God's treasure? Do you believe that what Jesus wants most is just to be close to you, for you to know Him and be known by Him?

1:19 *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead...*

Paul once again stacks up the adjectives and deep truths to help us see the scale of how much God loves you. God's gift to you, the inheritance you get, is a new identity and new heart, because Jesus is with us, bonded to us by the Holy Spirit. And this inheritance is nothing less than the same resurrection and transforming power that brought Jesus from death to life. It's the Holy Spirit, in you, right now. It's dizzying.

What kind of Jesus do you believe in? What kind of Holy Spirit do you believe resides within you? Is the Holy Spirit an aspirin that takes away pain for a moment, or a surgeon that can heal you? Is Jesus your

forgiveness credit card that can lend you help as long as you pay Him back with ridiculous interest rates? Or is Jesus the one who has paid your debt in full and deposited everything He has into your account? Did Jesus really defeat the enemy or are you still okay with keeping the enemy around on a leash when you want to dip back into temptation?

1:20 *seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*

The ascension of Jesus at the right hand of the Father—with all power, authority, and dominion as His—is for a reason and that reason is the church. We are the church. Our purpose, the reason why we are here, is to live into who we are in Christ and to help others do the same.

The purpose of the church is to demolish the darkness, to destroy injustice and pain, to proclaim the good news that Jesus saves us because He is wildly in love with us, to mature into the new identity given to us by Jesus and to help others do the same, to bind up the broken hearted, to help the lame to walk, the blind to see, to proclaim the good news that God's Kingdom rule and reign is here.

1:22 *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

God the Father has given us Jesus—the one exalted high above every power and every name. You have God's power—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead—in your soul right now because the moment you trusted Jesus, the Holy Spirit bonded Himself to your soul. Thus, my purpose is to urge you to pray. The Holy Spirit has prayers for you to pray, prayers for the lost, the weary, the broken. Your prayers change the world. Truly. The great revivals happened because the church prays.

Prayer is your connection to God. Prayer is your connection to the power of God which raised Jesus from the dead. Prayer is your connection to the authority of Jesus to heal diseases and to demolish evil. Prayer is your connection to the tenderness of Jesus to heal broken hearts and restore lives. Stay connected!

SMALL GROUP GROUND RULES: Tips for great conversation

- Extroverts: Please allow space and time for introverts to speak.
- Introverts: Please speak up when you have something to contribute.
- Everyone: Show respect by listening to one another, knowing that we all can learn from those who have a different perspective.