

ICE BREAKER

Who is someone or what is something you find it easy to lean on when you're going through a hard time?

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 (REDEMPITIVE 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

October 15, 2023

"How God Repairs Relationships"

Ephesians 2:14-22

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
mycoastal.org

NOTES: How God Repairs Relationships (Eph. 2:14-22) Andy Rock

Last week we talked about how we, who have no legal or historical or familial right to belong to God, have been drawn close to Him by Jesus. By the blood of Jesus spilled on the cross, God has claimed us as His own and drawn us near to Himself, giving us a new heart and identity. In other words, God resurrects us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

Jesus is our peace. The same Jesus that is bonded to your soul and whose spirit is now welded to your own, that same Jesus is in the person next to you, who you might think you have nothing in common with. The only thing that matters now is that we all have Jesus together.

Jesus is with you and me. We can love because He first loves us. We can forgive because we're forgiven. As we forgive each other, sometimes it means the relationship is fully restored. Sometimes we love each other from a distance. No matter how it works out, Jesus has been our peace the entire time. Why is this so important?

2:15 His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Jesus is teaching us to keep Him at the center of our life in every moment. But I'm terrible at keeping Jesus as my center in conflict. I'm constantly tempted to put the other person as my center. If they would just be different, do what I want them to do, then I would be at peace. Peace isn't me holding onto anyone or anything. Peace is Jesus holding onto me. Will you receive Jesus as your peace?

PRAYER – "Jesus, I'm sorry I've wanted your blessings more than You. I'm sorry I've tried to make my own desires my peace rather than You. Forgive me. Jesus, please be my peace again. I take You back as my peace. I place You at the center of my heart and life once again. Thank You for choosing me and suffering for me and being faithful to me and never leaving me this entire time."

2:17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

All of us are equally lost and now equally found, equally loved and equally forgiven, drawn near to Jesus and to each other by His loving hand. We all share the same path to our Heavenly Father, chosen in love, ransomed by His mercy, brought to life by the Spirit, and given this new family. God heals people. If you want your relationships with others healed, then receive your healing from Jesus. He is your peace.

2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

You're not a foreigner. The time of isolation and feeling like an outsider is over. You belong. All of us are citizens of God's kingdom. Therefore, it's our purpose and responsibility to repair the hurts we've caused, *with Jesus*. It's our purpose and responsibility to heal and bind up the broken hearted, *with Jesus*. So, we invest our time, money, and energy in His Kingdom to literally build Heaven on Earth. With Jesus at the center, there's nothing we cannot do together. Together.

2:21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Notice the verb tense in the phrase, "we are being built." It's active, and ongoing. Very few of us know how to be vulnerable and receive love, to let others in, to receive, to trust. But if we practice, we'll get better. Dare to be completely and truthfully yourself.

Don't isolate. Let Jesus be at the center of your life and tell Him everything. If you do, you'll naturally do that with others. We are being built together to be the place where God dwells, the House of Miracles. That's us. So, dare to be yourself.

Share your deep needs and deep hurts. Share your profound wealth and your precious time. Share your skills and joys and love. Together we'll learn to put Jesus at the center of our lives. Together we'll learn how to be loved. Together we'll find healing. Together we'll repair the world. Together we're unstoppable.

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.