

This Week's Principle:

Function as a Team (*John 17:21-23*): we will be unified as a group and as a church as commanded in John 17, and we will function and work as a team pursuing God's purposes.

Scripture

"²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:21-23

Key Thought

At the time of Christ, children were considered to be very lowly socially, with few people concerned for their benefit. What is Jesus teaching the disciples by calling on them to "receive one such child in my name?" Read Matthew 25:40. Why does Jesus tie serving the outcast to serving Him and the Father?

Application: Who are the people in our culture that we should serve in the name of Jesus? What does that look like practically?

Who Are the True Followers of Jesus?

Mark 9:30-50

Introduction: What kind of prayer life do you have right now? How can the group help you grow in the area of prayer?

1. Read Mark 9:30-32. Why did Jesus not want people to know that he and the disciples were passing through Galilee? Are there teachings or activities that are meant only for genuine disciples of Jesus? Explain. This is Mark's second time speaking of Jesus teaching on his death and resurrection, but it is the first time Jesus mentions "to give over or hand over" to men. Read Romans 4:25 and 8:32. Who did the "handing over" in the two Romans passages? Who will be doing the "handing over" in regard to Jesus? Read Isaiah 53:6, 12. Why is the Suffering Servant handed over according to Isaiah? Why were the disciples afraid to ask Jesus more questions?
2. Read Mark 9:33-37. Based on the previous verses (30-32) what should the disciples have been talking about? Why were the disciples silent to Jesus' question about their discussion of who is the greatest? What is the path to "greatness" in God's kingdom? How does the world view a person who sacrifices and serves others?
3. At the time of Christ, children were considered to be very lowly socially, with few people concerned for their benefit. What is Jesus teaching the disciples by calling on them to "receive one such child in my name?" Read Matthew 25:40. Why does Jesus tie serving the outcast to serving Him and the Father?

Application: Who are the people in our culture that we should serve in the name of Jesus? What does that look like practically?

4. Read Mark 9:38-41. What was John's complaint? Is he complaining about the casting out of demons or that these people are not part of the "team"? In verses 39 & 40, who is part of Jesus' "team"?

Application: Are churches/denominations more likely to find reasons to exclude one another or more likely to find reasons to work together? Why? What do Jesus' words encourage us to do? How does this story about who is counted as disciples of Jesus connected with the disciples' discussion about who is the greatest?

5. Read Mark 9:42-50. What is Jesus trying to teach by pointing out there is "special judgement" for those who cause a child to sin (as opposed to causing an adult to sin)?
6. In verses 43-48, what is Jesus' point about removing parts of the body that lead a person to sin, rather than being "normal" and being condemned to hell? Is it easier to give up a favorite sin or a body part?

7. How does Jesus describe the judgement of those who are sent to hell? Read Isaiah 30:33. Who is the One who condemns people to hell? In our culture today, why is it hard for some people to believe that God condemns sinners to hell?

Application: Do you think it is necessary to talk about hell/judgement for a person to accept Jesus as their Savior? Why or why not?

Vision, Mission, Values, & Principles

The Vision

Our vision is to see the fulfillment of the Great Commission through our lives, families, and ministries.

Matthew 28:18-20

The Mission

Our mission is to lead people to KNOW Christ, teach them to GROW in Christ, and equip them to SERVE Christ.

Colossians 2:6-7

Core Values

We value the TRUTH of God's Word, the LOVE of God's heart, and SERVICE in his kingdom

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 22:36-40, Matthew 23:11

A Disciple

A disciple is a person who has a personal relationship with Jesus, knows and obeys Jesus' commands, and intentionally makes other disciples for Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:17; John 15:5-17

Core Principles for Family Groups

Abiding Relationship with Jesus (*John 15:4-7*): every group member will have a personal relationship with Jesus that transforms how they live their life.

Reach the Lost (*Luke 19:10; Matthew 28:18-20*): every member shares their faith with those who do not know Jesus and celebrates when a person makes a decision for Christ

Connect the Unconnected (*Hebrews 10:24-25*): every member is connected with Jesus and with the church. Each person is connected in an intentional relational environment for the purpose of becoming a disciple.

Chase the Strays (*Luke 15:4*): every Christian who has strayed from Christ will be valued, noticed, and pursued.

Shepherd Towards Maturity (*Colossians 1:28; 2 Cor. 3:18*): every person in our church is progressing in spiritual maturity and becoming more like Jesus Christ.

Identify, Equip, and Empower

Leaders (*Ephesians 4:11-12*): we will fulfill the command of Ephesians 4 to equip believers for ministry, empower them to be who God created them to be, and send them out to serve.

Function as a Team (*John 17:21-23*): we will be unified as a group and as a church as commanded in John 17, and we will function and work as a team pursuing God's purposes.

Announcements

Sunday Morning Schedule

Our new schedule is 9:00 am and 10:30 am services and Family Group Bible studies.

As part of the change, our 9:00 am service will be a modern service, while our 10:30 am service will be a "Classic" service with old and new hymns.

Find a Group

If you are not in a Bible study, you can find a listing of current groups on our website: familychurchpc.com and click on Family Groups.