

This Week's Principle:

**A Disciple
Abiding Relationship with
Jesus:** every group member will have a personal relationship with Jesus that transforms how they live their life.

Scripture

⁵I 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.

John 15:5

Key Thought

The way to avoid deflecting responsibility for our sins is to understand the importance of confession. Read Psalm 51:1. What is David depending upon for his relationship with the Lord?

Read Psalm 51:1b-2, 6-7. What is David asking God to do for him?

Read Psalm 51:3-5. Ultimately, who (or what) is offended by our sins? Is sin just the things we think, say, and do, or is there a deeper cause/source of our sinfulness? (See Romans 3:10-12 & Psalm 58:3)

Read Psalm 51:8-13. What benefits do believers receive when they confess their sins before God?

What Defiles a Person

Mark 7:14-23

Introduction: Read Genesis 3:1-13. Who did Adam blame for the sin he committed? Who did Eve blame for the sin she committed? Tell of a time that you tried to pass blame for something you did wrong but got caught anyways.

1. Read Mark 7:14-15. Jesus finally gets around to answering the Pharisees' question, so why did Jesus call all the people together to hear his answer? The word translated "defile" in English means "to make ritually unclean" in the Hebrew. Is Jesus addressing clean hands for sanitary reasons, or is he teaching a deeper theological lesson? Read Matthew 12:34 and Luke 6:45. Ultimately, are we defiled by what is external to us or is the source of our defilement from the content of our heart?

Read Genesis 3:9-13. Did Adam or Eve accept responsibility for their sin or did they blame an outside influence?

Application: Why is it important that we accept responsibility for our own sin? How do we teach our kids (or guide loved ones) to accept responsibility for their sins?

2. The way to avoid deflecting responsibility for our sins is to understand the importance of confession. Read Psalm 51:1. What is David depending upon for his relationship with the Lord?

- Read Psalm 51:1b-2, 6-7. What is David asking God to do for him?
- Read Psalm 51:3-5. Ultimately, who (or what) is offended by our sins? Is sin just the things we think, say, and do, or is there a deeper cause/source of our sinfulness? (See Romans 3:10-12 & Psalm 58:3)

• Read Psalm 51:8-13. What benefits do believers receive when they confess their sins before God?

3. Read Mark 7:17-19. Are you surprised that the disciples still don't understand what Jesus is teaching? Why or why not? What is Jesus trying to get the disciples to understand about the source of sin/defilement in regard to food? Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-13. Where is the source of defilement originating in this passage?

4. Read Mark 7:20-22. According to these verses, what causes a person to commit any of the sins listed in 21 & 22?

5. Read James 1:13-15. Can we blame our sin on someone else, if the true source of our sin is the condition of our heart?

Application: Why is the advice "Just Follow Your Heart" bad advice? Read Proverbs 22:15. Why is this an important principle to teach to our children? Read 1 John 3:20. How do we defeat the foolishness/sinfulness that resides in our heart?

6. Read Mark 7:23. Who bears the blame for the sins that you commit?

Application:

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

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.

Church Dinner Wednesday Night

For those who attend AWANA, Student Ministry, or a Bible study on campus Wednesday nights, we offer a dinner at 5:15 pm. This is a delicious family-friendly meal. The cost is \$2 per person or \$5 a family.