

Week #4

BUILDING COMMUNITY

• **PASSAGE:** EPH 3:14-21

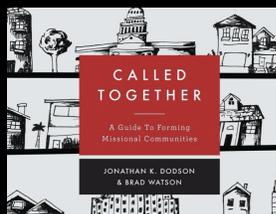
14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Become a Community - Share

- **Biggest celebrity you've spoken to? At least seen?**
- **If you could be famous for any reason what would you choose?**
- **Tell us your story.**
- **How can we pray for you this week?**

Take a Group Photo - eyebrows photo ... tip your camera so all we can see if your eyebrows

Close your time in prayer!



Lesson: LIVING THE GOSPEL

•BIG PICTURE

- **Put Together All We've Learned About the Gospel**
- **Gospel Response: repentance & faith**
- **Remind Each Other of the Gospel**

Remember.

The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus has defeated sin, death, and evil through his own death and resurrection and is making all things new, even us. The gospel empowers neither religion nor rebellion, but repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Gospel is Not Religious Performance

What motivates our obedience? Duty, emotion, something else? Religion says, "I obey, therefore I am accepted" but the Gospel says, "I am accepted therefore I obey." - That is the Good News! It means our motivation to obey comes from God's acceptance of us in Christ. You don't have to perform for God or the Church. We don't have to impress God because Jesus did it for us! We don't have to be perfect or claim to be perfect because we are all imperfect people clinging to a perfect Christ!

The Gospel is Not Spiritual License

Does this mean we just obey when we feel accepted or when we sense the truth of the Gospel? Should we keep sinning so Grace multiplies? Paul tells no! Rom. 6:1-4. We deceive ourselves by saying "Because God has forgiven me, I'm free to disobey." The truth is, "Because God has forgiven me, I'm bound to obey." The gospel points us to Jesus as redeemer and lord. We are not bound to rules (keeping or breaking) we are bound to Jesus. And we get to relentlessly remind one another of the beauty, sufficiency, and glory of Christ. He's worthy of every step of obedience, every act of holiness.

Discuss.

Do you lean more towards religious performance or rebellion?
Have you ever felt like you had to perform spiritually to be accepted by God?
Can you tell us about a time you found religion or rebellion unsatisfying?

Responding to the Gospel: Repentance & Faith.

Mark 1:14-15- *14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

Repent and Believe: What does repentance mean? Does it mean sorry? I feel bad? What does believe mean? Does it mean I agree to the facts that Jesus died and rose for me? Both are incomplete definitions.

Faith: When Jesus said repent, He was saying to turn away not only from sin, but to turn from the lies sin deceives us with, and to turn towards something truer and better; to turn to Jesus and his true promises. We are encouraged to believe in Jesus, to cling to His promises, to put our hope, trust and faith in Him.

Discuss.

What do you think about the statement, "repentance is good news"?
How can we learn to turn away from sin and towards Jesus and His promises?
As we grow together, what does it look to be people who remind one another of this good news?