

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 2020

For 10 weeks this fall we are reading through the book AHA (**A**wakening, **H**onesty, **A**ction). This book follows one of the most famous parables of Jesus, the parable of the Prodigal Sons in Luke 15. The questions included here (each week we will provide the previous, and current, week's questions) are for those who are not able to be a part of one of our 10-week Community Groups. Sunday sermons typically, not always, follow the previous week's study. Our hope is that these questions help you individually, or as a family, as you read through the AHA book, or dive deeper into the parable of the Prodigal Sons. Our goal is to understand the character and heart of God which then leads us to Awakening, Honesty, and Action: loving God, loving others!

AHA CHAPTER 3 QUESTIONS (PREVIOUS WEEK)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the Prodigal Sons Parable Luke 15:11-32. Re-read 13-16.
If reading the AHA Book, read chapter 3 "A Desperate Moment"

1. What did the young prodigal son expect as he headed to the distant country? How was his real life experience different than his expectations?
2. What caused him to reach his "desperate moment"?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Describe a time when you suddenly realized you were lost, your life was out of control, you felt powerless. How did it feel? How did you respond? Who did you turn to for help? What was the outcome?
4. Does everyone who travels to the distant country reach a desperate moment? How would your life be different if you faced no consequences for the choices you made? If others also faced no consequences for their choices and actions, how would that affect you, and society?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. If you had the ability to go back and remove all of the difficult and painful experiences in the lives of those you love, would you? Would that affect their life and relationship with God?
6. The AHA book claims that difficult times contribute most to a person's spiritual growth? Do you agree? Read Romans 5:1-5, John 16:33, Romans 8:28-32.

AHA CHAPTER 4 QUESTIONS (CURRENT WEEK)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read the Prodigal Sons Parable Luke 15:11-32.

If reading the AHA Book, read chapter 4 "A Startling Realization"

1. Re-read Luke 15:17 Why was this a startling realization about his father, and about himself? How had he likely viewed his father, himself, before leaving for the far country?
2. What were the circumstances that led him to this startling realization? Why did it take him so long to realize this?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. How much silence/solitude is there in your daily life? Do you need more silence/solitude? What is the value of silence?
4. What circumstances make it easier for you to reflect honestly? Where, when, how, does this happen for you?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

We do not come to life-changing, soul-searching, God-honoring, realizations on our own. Christian faith claims it is the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes to these startling realizations. The Holy Spirit even generously works in the lives of those far from God.

5. What are some understandings/misunderstandings people have about the Holy Spirit? What do you understand about the Holy Spirit?
6. What does the Bible teach us about the Holy Spirit? Some Bible passages to consider (read the verses before and after those listed here): Genesis 1:2, Psalm 51:11, Micah 3:8, Luke 1:35, Luke 11:33, Luke 24:31-32, John 7:39, John 14:26, John 16:13, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:29, Acts 16:14, Galatians 5:22.
7. How is the Holy Spirit a part of your everyday life?
Please speak with a Christian friend, or one of your Grace of Christ pastors, to discuss further.

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a minute or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray.

In your prayer ask God to speak to you, teach you, comfort you, challenge you, and guide you by His Holy Spirit. God gives His Holy Spirit to those who realize their need for the love & mercy of Jesus.