

GOSPEL OF LUKE WEEK 6

FLOURISHING GRACE SMALL GROUP CODE

Engagement:

Each person will get out of their small group what they put into the group. Make sure everyone in the group gets a chance to engage. If you tend to talk more than others be sensitive to how much you may dominate the conversation. If you tend to talk less make sure you work to speak up in your group. Your voice is valuable to others in your group and community; growth can't happen without engagement.

Confidentiality:

We long for our groups to be places of authentic community. The only way this happens is through vulnerable conversations in which we share personal parts of our lives and confess our sin together. Anything and everything that is shared in the group must stay in the group.

Speech:

We must fight against gossip, grumbling, and complaining. Our speech should build up our group not burden our group (Ephesians 4:29). We also must keep our conversation focused when our group meets. Groups gather to study the word and connect together please avoid personal rabbit trails or off topic subjects.

It takes more than one day and one person:

Small groups are about relationships. True relationships are not built by one person on one day a week. Step up to help your leader - they can't do it all alone. Everyone in the group should be serving the group - volunteer to host, volunteer to bring a snack, volunteer to give them a week off. Follow up and engage the members of your group during the week: one day a week does not build authentic community.

PRAY

Around the group have each person share one prayer request for the week.

Open a time of prayer inviting one person or the whole group (if they feel comfortable) to pray for the request of the group and for our Flourishing Grace Partners and the Partnership Class coming this Sunday.

BACKGROUND

In chapter 9 Jesus pulls his disciples aside and asks them who they think He is. Peter replies, “You are ‘the Christ of God.’ Jesus goes on to tell them that He is going to suffer, die, and be raised again. But then He teaches them what will be required of them if they wish to come after Him.

OPEN

First, have a group member read **Luke 9:23-27**

Have you ever given up something you really wanted because you knew that saying "no" would lead to something far greater? What was it?

REFLECT

Jesus gives three things in verse 23 that we must do if we want to come after Him. What are they?

What does He mean when He says “that we must deny ourselves?” Why is it so hard for us to be people who choose to deny ourselves?

What is the difference between denying ourselves and picking up our cross?

When should we deny ourselves and pick up our cross? (vs. 23)

In verses 24-26, Jesus gives three reasons that we should deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Him. What are the three reasons?

What two things happen to us when we choose to pursue our joy in the things of this earth rather than Christ? (Vs 24&25) What does Jesus mean by this?

How will Jesus view those who have spent their lives valuing the things of this world over him? (vs 26)

APPLY

How does denying things that we think will make us happy bring us greater joy in Jesus?

Why is it so hard to believe that there is more joy in knowing God than in having more comfort, wealth, and power?

What does our disbelief in the greater joy found in God reveal to us about what we truly believe about God Himself?

What are things that people you know believe that they can not live without? How does our western culture of comfort and excess make the cross heavier to pick up daily?

What is one thing in your life that you believe you would not be happy without? How might giving it up help you pick up your cross daily?

How can we work towards giving up things daily in order to seek to find more true joy in Christ?

What might you give up for lent?

CLOSE

What is one thing in this passage that stuck out to you personally and why?

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT: Luke 10