

Wake Up!!!

Insights on Romans 13:11-14

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, May 6, 2018

Wake up to what?

(Romans 13:11-12)

- We wake up _____

What clothes to cast off?

(Romans 13:12-13)

- The _____
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 -
 -

What clothes to put on?

(Romans 13:12-14)

- Put on _____
 - The Christian life is...
 - We put on...
 - Jesus is...
 - Don't plan to...

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 4” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God’s Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way!

Looking Back:

Each week we’ll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. Not all of us are morning people. Share some stories of how your parents used to wake you up for school. Were your parents sweet and nice or did they used to do something funny or annoying to wake you up?

2. Our culture is very good at luring us to sleep with many different things. We become accustomed to seeing sexual immorality, violence, and other forms of questionable behavior on TV or the internet. How have you found yourself getting lured asleep and what steps have you had to take to “wake up?”

Each week in “looking back,” we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God’s Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

Looking Up:

1. Being a Christian in the world is very difficult and can at times cause us to doubt whether our faith is correct or real. Biblical faith though, doesn't mean we won't struggle with doubt. Our trust and understanding of who God is, as the object of our faith, can either diminish or heighten the sometimes paralyzing affect of doubt. How do the following verses help build your confidence in God in the midst of doubt?

- **Psalm 25:8, Psalm 89:11, Psalm 145:9-10, James 1:17**

2. "Putting on Jesus" means that we are going to be people who live by faith. Living by faith means we will trust God enough to do what he asks us to do. Faith has little to do with taking blind leaps and more to do with taking daily steps of obedience. Read the two passages below and then take a minute to create a list of intentional faith steps that God asks all of his followers to take. Share the list with your group. How can these steps be lived out this week?

- **Colossians 3:12-17, Psalm 15**

3. We were reminded this weekend that the Christian life is a battle. Christians are constantly being tempted on all sides, but the call is for us to stand up and fight, except for sexual immorality where we are called to put on our running shoes and flee. Read **Ephesians 6:10-20** about putting on the whole armor of God. What new things catch your attention about this passage? How can we prepare ourselves daily for battle in light of this passage?

4. Romans 13:14 tells us, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." Part of making "no provision" is to avoid sin at all costs. What do these verses teach us about avoiding sin?

- **1 Corinthians 10:13, 15:33, 2 Timothy 2:22, Proverbs 28:13**

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Begin your morning every day this week by "putting on Jesus" by reading his word and praying.
- Memorize two of the four verses given in question 4 to help you battle sin in your life.
- If there have been clothes you need to cast off, talk to a trusted believer and tell them your desire to cast those off, and have them pray with you and for you.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!