

How Much More

Insights on Romans 5:6-21

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, November 5, 2017

Which Team?

(Romans 5:12-21)

<u>Adam</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
S	G
C	J
D	E
A	H

The Truth...

(Romans 5:6-11, John 10:10, Galatians 2:20)

Jesus gave his life_____,
to take my life_____,
so he could live His life_____.

Pursuing More:

His death...

His Life...

His death...

His Life...

His death...

His Life gives...

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 9” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have decided to take this journey 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! This is a 10 week session of small groups as we will wrap up next week.

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 or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. There are a lot of misunderstandings about the Christian life. These misunderstandings come from a variety of places. What are some misunderstandings you had about Christianity, Christians or the Church as you were growing up?

2. What is your reaction to the statement, “Jesus gave his life for me, to take my life from me, so he could live his life through me?” Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?

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

Looking Up:

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

1. Experiencing an abundant life can seem like a confusing goal. Jesus simplifies it in a talk he had with his disciples where he used a vineyard analogy to explain what it takes to grow in him. Read **John 15:1-8** and jot down what role each of the main characters has (God, Jesus and the believer) and the responsibility each has in the spiritual growth process.

In what ways could understanding these differing roles and responsibilities affect your spiritual growth?

Can you think of an example in your own life that has been helpful in reminding you of your need to rely on God's power?

2. This past weekend we talked about us living a "how much more" life. How do you see that kind of life reflected in the following quote by Bible translator, J.B. Phillips?

"The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these New Testament letters, is that to us, it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion a code or, at best, a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life together. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them. We are practically driven to accept their own explanation, which is that their little human lives had, through Christ, been linked up with the very life of God."

Which statements in Galatians 5:16-26 expand your understanding of what the "how much more" life could look like?

3. John 15 gives us a great picture of what it means to stay connected to Jesus because the power to live an abundant life comes from him. The challenge is to stay connected consistently. What help do the following verses offer us for staying connected in our relationship with Jesus?

- **Psalms 139:23-24, James 4:17, Matthew 5:23-24**

Can you think of anything from these verses that you could start or stop doing to help you stay consistently connected to Jesus?

Looking Forward:

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.

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

- Begin keeping a journal of all the ways God has been gracious with you. This way in times of "not feeling God" you can remember his faithfulness.
- In order to have his life change who you are, then we need to practice obedience. Pray for God to show you his desire, and say "yes" to being obedient to what the Spirit reveals to you.
- Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13 and when faced with temptation to sin, quote this verse and stand in God's victory in your life over sin.

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