

2022 Fall Spiritual Renewal

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Got Purpose?

Week 5

You Were Created to Become Like Christ

Opening Questions

1. What, if anything, really struck you from this week's sermon or Scripture reading?
2. What characteristic of Jesus' personality do you admire most? Talk about why you admire this characteristic and how it relates to your life.

Observation/Interpretation/Application

Read Matthew 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-8

3. These are all sections of the Bible with names: The Beatitudes, the Love Chapter, the fruit of the Spirit, and Peter's list of the characteristics for an effective life. Are you familiar with these sections of the Bible? If not, which one/s are the least familiar? What specific passages in these sections really grab you personally? Explain why.

Read Genesis 37:2-11

4. How did Joseph offend his brothers and father? How would you describe Joseph's personality at this time in his life?
5. In his book, Rick Warren writes:

God's ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 173

How did Joseph need character development? What are some of your primary character development needs?

Read Genesis 37:12-28

6. At first glance, what Joseph's brothers did was terrible and unjust (it *was* an awful and violent thing to do!). How do you think this adversity and extreme discomfort shaped Joseph's life? (If you know the rest of the story, you have some insight into this!)
7. Talk about some times of adversity that you have experienced. How have these experiences made you the person you are today? (Talk about positive and negative impacts from these times of discomfort)
8. Rick Warren says, "We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work." Luther writes in his explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." What credit should the Holy Spirit get in our lives? What should we get credit for?

Look at the following verses:

- Zechariah 4:6
 - Ephesians 2:1-10
 - Galatians 5:25
9. How does the Holy Spirit use God's Word to transform your life? Read John 16:13-15. What was Jesus promising? Are there any Bible passage that have been a source of strength and power in your life? Share them with the group.

Read Genesis 39:1-20

10. The Bible has transforming power. How might God's Word have played a part in Joseph's actions to resist temptation (think of his upbringing in Jacob's home)? Read Hebrews 4:12. The Bible is a "means of grace," or a way that God brings into your life the gifts of forgiveness and love to work transformation in your life. How does a steady diet of God's Word help you use the following strategy for defeating temptation?
 - Refocus your attention on something else
 - Reveal your struggle to a godly friend or support group
 - Resist the devil

- Realize your vulnerability

Read Genesis 41:15-16 and Genesis 45:4-7

11. How can you tell that Joseph became a radically changed person? What changed him? Why did God allow Joseph's life to take such a terrible turn? Why does God allow suffering and difficulty in your life? How can you cope with difficult times? Share with your group some of the ways you have coped.

12. How does the Bible verse for this week apply to our discussion? 1 Peter 2:21

Whenever we resist the temptations placed before us, we have the opportunity to do good. If you are comfortable, share an area of temptation you are struggling with. Pray as a group, asking God for the strength to resist the temptations which are placed before you.