

Needed Reminders

OCTOBER 31, 2021

PREPARATION.

Study

Look over the guideline for the group discussion and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.

Pray

Pray for the members of your group and their openness to God's word.

Landing Point

Jesus commanded His followers in Matthew 28 to Go make disciples of all nations. Our mission at Pinelake is to make disciples who learn, live and lead. The goal of this gathering today is that you would open your heart and learn, then leave here and live out what you learn and also use your life and words to lead others to Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

INTRODUCTION

We all have different ways to remind ourselves of important events, dates and significant events. There are some birthdays and anniversaries that you should not forget. Phones give us reminders of events and payments. Holidays are days we are reminded of significant events. Maybe a song or old photograph helps you remember a significant event in your life. Today we are looking at some key biblical principles that are good reminders for us.

Why are reminders an important aspect of life? What is the most significant event that you have forgotten? What are a couple ways to help us remember the important things?

DEEPER DIVE

Testimony

Paul's testimony was that Jesus gave him grace and a new calling in life, not to persecute Jesus, but to preach Jesus and help open people's eyes to the truth. Paul testified he was a messenger sent from God to point people to the one who opened eyes and set people free.

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Q - Have a volunteer read Acts 26:12-18 and make note of the key aspects of Paul's testimony.

Q - How does the idea "***I Am Reminded That Whatever I Am, I Am By God's Grace***" give us a hope in Christ and take pressure off us.

Q - What are ways that God uses to open blind eyes to the message of Jesus?
(God uses his word, power and miracles, prayer)

Changed Life

In our culture, there is this sense that you need Jesus because He can improve your life. You are rolling along doing your thing, you have problems and setbacks, but if you just added a little God to your life, then you could have an even better life, a 'blessed' life. Jesus didn't come to be an "add" to your old life to make it better. He came so that you could die to your old life and that He might change you and make you new.

Q - Why is the best testimony for Jesus a changed life?

Q - What obstacles keep us from complete change or repentance to Jesus?

What has helped you walk in repentance?

Satan is your old boss. You don't listen to him or obey him anymore. He can't make you do anything. You are in Christ and your life is markedly changed.

Spiritual Blessings

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

3 results of God's spiritual blessings

1. *You may receive forgiveness of sins.* You accumulated a sin debt and the requirement for paying it off was death. Jesus paid your debt, so you are free. The record of your wrongs has "paid in full" on it. Jesus forgives you and wipes your record clean.
2. *You receive an inheritance.* Jesus didn't just forgive you, He adopted you into His family and made you an heir.
3. *You receive a new standing.* When God looks at you, He doesn't see your past sins, He sees your present sanctification because of Jesus.

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Q - Are you getting ready to meet Jesus?

What would that look like for you to start living your life like you are getting ready?

Q - How can we live differently as an heir of Jesus? How is our identity impacted by the standing we have with Jesus?

Q - How does understanding your own spiritual blessings help you show others what they have in Christ?

