



Changed By Grace: God is on the Move

Pastor Derek Sanford

February 2, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. In his sermon Pastor Derek taught that the church started as a movement and God is still on the move today. What are some ways you've seen God move recently?
3. **Read Acts 1:8.** In his sermon Pastor Derek reminds us of the very important word "witness" that's in this scripture. It's our job on earth to be witnesses for God's kingdom in Heaven. We are to be "on mission and in motion," and not just on Sunday mornings. How does your current reality reflect that calling? How can the group support each other in this mission?
4. **Read Acts 6:1-7.** According to the sermon, the church movement is also marked by devotion. How do you see devotion play out in this passage? What happens as a result of the devotion of the seven?
5. **Read Matthew 28:20.** In this great commission, Jesus is empowering his disciples to go out and spread the gospel in His name. This remains true for us today. What does it look like to live a life of devotion fully believing that God is with us and goes before us?

Next Steps: As Pastor Derek encouraged us in this week's sermon; plant yourself in the right environment so you can flourish.

Prayer Thought: This month is the reopening of all Grace sites. Spend time in prayer as a life group for the people who will come to Grace this month, pray specifically for the people that members of the group are inviting.



Changed by Grace: You Matter to God

Pastor Derek Sanford

February 9, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **Luke 15:11-24**. In what ways do you identify with the son? What are some labels that you have identified with (good or bad)?
3. Read **Genesis 3:16-19** and **Romans 3:10-12**. What do these verses say about our free will and the impact of using that free will to walk away from God?
4. Read **John 1:12-13**. What does God ask of us when we turn to him? How does this verse relate with the son in Luke 15?
5. Read **Ezekiel 11:19-20** and **Ephesians 1:3-14**. What are some new labels that you receive when you believe in Jesus?
6. How have you experienced God as a loving father like the one in Luke 15? What are some ways that you can remember and experience the truths taught in this parable/sermon?

Next Steps: Make a list of all the negative labels you (or your group) have been given, cross it out and write out all the new labels that you are given through Christ.

Prayer Thought: Read and pray through **Psalms 139**. Praise the Lord for how he knows you and cares about you as written in the Psalm.



Changed By Grace: Life Change Is Possible

Pastor Derek Sanford

February 16, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions:

6. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
7. Read **Matthew 11:25-30** and **Exodus 18:17-23**. What is a yoke? What does it mean to take Jesus' yoke on us? How is His yoke different? In Exodus 18 Moses got some good advice from his father-in-law. How can that advice to delegate some tasks apply to your life?
8. Read **Psalms 46**. What are some ways you could intentionally slow down in your life so you can hear God and get to know Him better? What symptoms of "hurry sickness" have you seen in your life? Commit to pray for each other in these areas.
9. Read **James 4:13-17**. Do you believe God has given you enough time to do His will for every day? What are some things you might need to leave behind or leave undone (urgent) so you can have God's best (important)?
10. Read **Matthew 6:25-34**. How can putting God first in your life make all the rest of your responsibilities fall into place? Derek said to be an apprentice, a fully devoted follower, of Jesus you need to: be with Jesus; become like Jesus; do what Jesus would do. What are some ways you can do that this week?
11. Read **Philippians 4:6-13**. How is prayer the basis for living a life of abiding in Jesus and being His fully devoted follower (apprentice)? How can you as a group encourage one another to go deeper in prayer?

Next Steps:

- 1- This week try to intentionally slow down. Drive at the speed limit in a slower lane or choose the longest line at the supermarket. Discipline yourself to use that time to pray for others and to ask God to show you more of Himself.
- 2- Share with your group how they can pray for any symptoms of "hurry sickness" you have seen in your life.

Prayer Thought: Using the ACTS model: **ADORE** (praise) Jesus for inviting us to be yoked with Him. **CONFESS** the things that keep you from living your best life with Him. **THANK** Him for His promise to give you rest as you come to Him. **SAY WHAT YOU NEED** (supplication) and ask Him to show you how to be with Him, become like Him, and do what He does.

Suggested Memory Verse: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* – **Matthew 11:28**



Changed By Grace: The Next Right Thing

Pastor Derek Sanford

February 23, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions:

12. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
13. Read **Ephesians 1:16-18**
 - a. Verse 17 describes Paul's prayer for the church, that God may give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Do you think of wisdom as a gift? How common do you think it is for people to try to get wisdom some other way? Why would that be tempting?
 - b. What does it mean to have 'the eyes of your hearts enlightened'?
 - c. What is the 'hope' that He has called us to?
 - d. What do you think His inheritance is?
14. The sermon this week described four steps toward flourishing in our faith: Know God. Find Freedom. Discover Purpose. Make a Difference.
 - a. Encourage each group member to share where they are personally on this path.
 - b. What are some strategies that they have found help them on their walk? What are the things holding them back?
 - c. What are some next steps they feel God may be leading them to?
15. Read **Psalms 92 or Psalm 16**
 - a. What is one thing that we can learn from David about flourishing with God?

Next Steps:

1. Find your chair! Seek greater intimacy with God through daily times of stillness and reflection on His character.
2. Confess an area of hurt or un-forgiveness in your heart and seek healing/restoration so that God can set you free.
3. Volunteer to serve in a new way at church or in your community. Ask God for guidance and then challenge yourself to try something that feels a little uncomfortable.

Prayer Thought: Read/Pray through **Psalm 100** verse by verse.

Suggested Memory Verse: Galatians 5:1 *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*