

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM



Date & Sermon Series:

July 4/5, 2015; Revealed

Speaker:

Campus Pastors “Ted Talks”

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 2:11-3:20

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed “Church Revealed.” These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow. ***A Special Note for Leaders:** This week’s questions may provoke discussions about politics, especially related to social issues. While these aren’t bad discussions to have, we want to make sure that they remain healthy, productive, and positive, and we want to be careful that no one—especially people who may not currently be following Jesus—leaves thinking that to be a follower of Jesus you have to vote a certain way or believe something particular about a given issue.*

Icebreaker Suggestions: Several of our campus pastors shared revealing stories about their hobbies, how they spend their free time, and the movies they quote in conversation. Some might call these a few of their “guilty pleasures.” What is your guilty pleasure?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. The book of Ephesians tells us there are things within us that God wants to REVEAL to us and open our eyes to. Not only that, but he wants to call these things out of us. What needs to be revealed to you during this sermon series?

Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Dave shared that as the church, through Christ, we are meant to address the problems of evil in the world. He then stated, “Sometimes our preferences get in the way of what church is actually about.” Does this statement resonate with you? Do you agree? Why or why not?

2. Pastor Robb stated that the church is revealed when we experience and express the peace of God. He then said, “We are the place where people experience the peace of God.” Do others experience God’s peace when they’re with you? Are you expressing the peace of God in your life? If you are, how? If not, what can you do to better express peace?
3. After discussing that the church is a reflection of God, Pastor Jeremy challenged us by asking, “what kind of image are we reflecting to society?” What image of God are you reflecting? What image is the church reflecting? Do you think either or both of these are accurate reflections of God? If not, what can we do to become a better reflection?
4. While explaining that Jesus is the unifying factor that brings everything together, Pastor Joshua read Ephesians 2:21 stating that it is a picture of how Jesus meticulously gathered us to be a reflection of him. And that all of our differences reflect his kingdom. In other words, He’s the one who brings us together allowing our differences – when all put together – to be a reflection of him. What is your unique role – your ‘difference’ – in the church? What do you bring that makes the church a better reflection of Christ?
5. Pastor Mike stated that, “we the church are God’s plan to reach the world for salvation. We’re the plan to reach people.” What are you doing to be part of this plan? What steps could you take in the next week, month, or year to become even more engaged in the plan?
6. *“It takes the whole peoples of God to experience the whole glory of God.”* Pastor Jon shared that when the church gathers and shares stories and testimonies, together we’re telling the whole story of God. He further stated that when he hears other people’s testimonies of how God has loved them, it makes *him* love God even more! Share a time where your love and understanding of God has grown by hearing someone else’s story of God acting in their life. If you haven’t experienced this yet, brainstorm ways you could encounter God through others.
7. In the message today, it was stated several times that, “we don’t *go* to church, we *are* the church!” Pastor Joel closed the message by saying, “let’s stand up and be the church!” What does this charge mean to you? What are specific ways you can BE the church this week?

Challenge:

Read, Pray, Act: Write down one thing you can do this week that is a reflection of love and mercy. Pray over it, and then act!

Read, Pray, Act: Pray through Ephesians 2:11-3:20 using the Lectio Divina (“divine reading”) method.

1. **Read** through Ephesians 2:11-3:20 listening for the word or phrase that strikes you or stands out.
2. Read back through Ephesians 2:11-3:20 this time **reflecting** on the following questions:
 - a. What is it in my life that needed to hear this word today?
 - b. How does this compare to how I live my life?
 - c. Where am I in this letter?
 - d. In what ways am I aligned to this passage?
 - e. What must be claimed today?
3. Read through Ephesians 2:11-3:20 again to **respond** to the following questions:
 - a. What is the invitation or challenge for us to respond to?
 - b. What is our response to God's invitation?
4. This time, as you read through Ephesians 2:11-3:20, focus on **rest**.
 - a. Release and return to a place of rest in God.
 - b. Have a posture of total yieldedness.
5. In the final time of reading through Ephesians 2:11-3:20, read it with **resolve** to carry this word and live it out.