

**AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 11.29.20**

These **discussions** and recommended **spiritual practices** are designed to help **AMPLIFY** the impact of our Sunday morning teaching from God's Word. Choose the ones that fit best in your context.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Each Sunday in Advent light the appropriate Advent Candle with someone and spend a moment in conversation and prayer together.**

Read Isaiah 9:1-6.

Share something of the darkness your experiencing. Share something of the way that you believe/hope that Jesus brings light into that darkness.

Take a moment to pray with and for the person with whom you just shared.

**Daily Discussion**

**These are intended for conversation around the dinner table, in the car, or before bed at night (designed for ages 7 and up). Start each conversation by reading the passage listed.**

**Monday:** John 14:23. Why did God give you life and put you here (on earth)? How has or could that purpose play out today?

**Tuesday:** Ephesians 2:12-13. Does that fit with your experience? Does God seem near... or far? If far, why do you suppose the God who made us would feel far from us?

**Wednesday:** Galatians 4:8. What are some of our idols? Where do we look for love, joy, peace, belonging, purpose, happiness, fulfillment?

**Thursday:** Luke 15:20. What are ways in which you have felt God the Father pursuing you in the midst of your unworthiness?

**Friday:** Mark 1:13. To repent in this Biblical sense is to return to God (Isaiah 30:15). Share something of your experience of repentance and how that impacts your relationship with Jesus.

**Saturday:** As we reflect during Advent on Jesus' first coming, what do you hope will be true about the second coming of Jesus?

## Weekly Discussion

**Spiritual friends are those who intentionally move into one another's life to spur one another on in spiritual growth for the Glory of God.**

1. In what ways have you felt like you were living within the purpose of God for you this recently? In what ways have you felt alienated from God recently?
2. We can make idols out of inherent bad things as well as inherently good things. Describe some idols with which you wrestle.
3. How have you felt God pursuing you even in the midst of your struggle with idols?

**What follows are some spiritual practices that we believe could feed your soul and advance His Kingdom this week.**

## An Inward-Focused Spiritual Practice

**Daily spiritual discipline** – Read Luke 15:11-32 each day this week. Create four different lists and interact with the Lord about what you observe.

1. Create a list of observations regarding the failures of both sons.
2. Create a list of ways that you may have expected a normal (sinful) father to respond.
3. Create a list of observations regarding how the father in the story does respond.
4. Create a list of observations regarding how your life re-enacts this story.

## An Outward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Seek to love those God places in your path. Be intentional to share Jesus's love through word or deed with them.

With the love of Jesus in view, reach out to a neighbor or co-worker or someone in need. Step into one of our Shalom for the City initiatives and share Jesus with our local community. Get on our weekly prayer email and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.