

AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 12.13.20

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.

3rd Sunday of Advent

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

Read Luke 2:8-18.

What is some great news that you've received before? How did you respond? Who did you tell?

What are some ways that you could be sharing the greatest news (of Jesus bringing salvation)? What obstacles slow you down?

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: Ephesians 2:14-15. Come up with a list of people groups who fight with one another (i.e. Israelites and Palestinians, school A vs. rival school, etc.). How does Jesus bring peace between any of these opposing groups?

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:14-15. What is the "dividing wall" between Jews and Gentiles that verses 14-15 is talking about?

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:16-18. What was the one way Jesus came up with to save us all? In what sense does that create a new united humanity?

Thursday: Ephesians 2:19-20. How have you experienced Spirit unity with someone who is otherwise very different from you?

Friday: Ephesians 2:21-22. How is the Churches witness improved when we live together in Spirit unity? What happens when we don't?

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. How have you experienced the trouble of division within the body of Christ? How have you experienced the beauty of unity in the body of Christ?
2. How has God encouraged or pursued you recently?
3. How has God called or used you recently?
4. How has God corrected you recently?

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 – Reflect on Ephesians 4:4-16 each day this week. Speak with God about this one question and write an ongoing answer to Him throughout the week.

Question: What would God have me do (based on how He has made me in particular) to help make the body of Christ more mature, to make it stronger and help it grow?

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.