

AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 5.29.22

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.

Sunday Discussion

This is designed to be an extension of our Sunday worship service. Take a few minutes to have this conversation with those who watched the worship service with you. If you watched alone, give another friend who watched alone a call and have the conversation over the phone.

Share something that was said or sung in the worship service that resonated with you. 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: Read Exodus 20:18-21. Why do you think the people responded this way? How would you respond? See also Isaiah 6:1-5 and Luke 5:1-9.

Tuesday: Read Hebrews 9:22. What is substitutionary atonement? Why do you need it? How do you receive it?

Wednesday: Read Ephesians 2:13. How does this reality impact your daily life? What replaces the sacrificial system in regards to your worship life? What practices help move you to thoughtful worship?

Thursday: Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What is the "hope we profess"?

Friday: Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Share something about your experience of approaching the throne of grace. What obstacles keep you from approaching the throne of grace?

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 has God encouraged, challenged or corrected you recently?
2. What's a way that you believe God has used you recently or wants to use you this week?

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 – Spend some time this week considering the thoughts and passages below.

Thoughts to ponder

It is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself. . .

As long as we do not look beyond the earth, being quite content with our own righteousness, wisdom, and virtue, we flatter ourselves most sweetly, and fancy ourselves all but demigods. [But suppose we] begin to raise our thoughts to God, and to ponder his nature, and how completely perfect are his righteousness, wisdom, and power – the straightedge to which we must be [conformed]. Then, what masquerad[ed] earlier as righteousness [and seemed] pleasing in us will soon grow filthy in its consummate [corruption].

As a consequence, we must infer that man is never sufficiently touched and affected by the awareness of his lowly state until he has compared himself with God's majesty. (Institutes 1.1.2-3)

The people offer burnt offerings, to atone for their sin against God. And they offer fellowship offerings, to celebrate the friendship they enjoy with God. – David Henderson

Now – through Christ – the ability to approach God is not reserved for a few, but is open to all of us, and it's based not on the flimsy footing of a series of inadequate ritual sacrifices that have to be made over and over, but on a once and for all sacrifice of the covenant maker himself. – David Henderson

Love III by George Herbert

*Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.*

*But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked any thing.*

*A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.*

*I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.*

*Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?*

*Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.*

*And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.*

*You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.*

Passages to ponder

Hebrews 9:11-14

Ephesians 2:11-13, 17-18

Hebrews 4:14-16

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.

Get involved with one of the Shalom of the City outreach initiatives:

<https://www.covenantpc.org/ministries/shalom-for-the-city/>

Get on our weekly prayer email (go to the "watch live" page and sign up for the prayer list) and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.