

Life Group Homework

For the week of April 22, 2018

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) From the passage in Galatians 5 about the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control), which one is God working on with you?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 1:12-14 (NLT)

¹²God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

- 4) What was God's purpose for the Jews who first believed?
- 5) What does the passage say about the Gentiles? (Gentile is a word meaning anyone non-Jewish.)

Galatians 3:28-29 (NLT)

²⁸There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

- 6) From this passage in Galatians, what are Jews and Gentiles in Christ?

From these passages, Pastor Craig taught us that we are chosen to point others back to God. In the book of Exodus Chapter 19, God had chosen the people of Israel to be a kingdom of priests and to share with the world the good news about God. In Chapter 1 of Ephesians, we learn that Gentiles are adopted into the family and that you and I are the same. This means we are chosen to point others back to God.

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- 7) In the passage above, Jesus is the speaker. What does He compare us to, and what does that mean for you and me?

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

- 8) How and when does the verse say we are to explain our hope in Jesus?

Let's be honest for a moment. Sharing our faith can be frightening, or sometime we just don't know what we would say. Let's unpack this challenge for a moment and then look at some practical ways to share.

- 9) What are some of the fears you have or have had about sharing Christ with others?
- 10) Have you ever had one of your fears about sharing your faith ever come true? If so, what was it like?

Many times Christians will claim they don't share their faith because their lifestyle should do it for them. While this is true, many times this reason is a spiritual answer to mask the fear they really feel. Other times it is just lack of knowledge as to what to say to someone. Below are some practical tools on how to start the conversation about faith.

- Invite the person to join you at church on a given Sunday, and go out to lunch with them after the service. At lunch ask them what they thought, or how their experience was.
- Do you pray before meals? If so, ask your waiter or waitress if there is something you could pray for them about. I have a friend who does this every time we go out. He says, "Hey, I am going to pray for this meal, is there anything I could pray for you about?" If they give you something, do it.
- Ask a person plainly, "What do you think about Jesus?"
- Know your own story! Know how you became a believer and be able to explain it quickly. The Apostle Paul can be seen sharing his personal story twice in the book of Acts. Our stories have power.

- Invite people into the rhythms of your life, and in conversations you have together, share how God is working in your life.

11) Is there anything not on this list that would also be good to share?

12) Of the 5 points above, is there one you are likely to try? If so, which one and why?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Acts 9, the account of Paul's conversion. Then read Acts Chapter 25-26, and answer the following questions:

13) What details does Paul include in sharing his story?

14) Why do you think he includes these facts?

15) What does your story have in common, and what is different from his?

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read Matthew 5:14-16 with your kids and then answer the following questions together:

16) What does Jesus mean when He says that we are the light of the world?

17) How can you let your light shine at home, school, work and with friends?

Parents: tell your kids about the "My Five" list. Then, encourage them to pick five people that do not know Christ and commit to praying for them every day, expecting God to work in their lives. If you have time, give each family member an index card that they can use to write their "My Five" list on. Provide markers, crayons and stickers that they can use to decorate cards. Encourage everyone to put their list in their Bibles so that they can remember to pray for their friends.



April 22, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

Chosen for Revelation

"...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
Galatians 5:22-23a

"God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago." *Ephesians 1:12-13*

Chosen to point to God

"God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth..."

Chosen to receive the Spirit of God

"...the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."

• You are not alone when you point to Jesus

- "...don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit." *Matthew 10:19*

• Empowered to point to Jesus.

- "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..." *Acts 1:8*

These are my 5 to be praying for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.