

MESSAGE BASED SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK

GETTING TO KNOW ME:

Pastor Ruben's message was about being hurt & what to do when we have a broken heart. We looked at the song "Someone like you" by Adele & how she was processing her own heartbreak.

Think about a time in life when your heart has been broken.

a. What is your natural response when you are hurt? Do you tend to withdraw, become sad, despair, become angry, seek revenge?

b. If Jesus could speak to you today about your heartbreak, what do you think he would say to you? (write a 2-3 sentences as if Jesus were speaking directly to you – this will take some imagination, but give it a try - Eg. Dear Dawn – I see your heart is broken...)

JESUS' MESSAGE FOR ME:

Was there anything in this message that you think Jesus was trying to speak directly to your heart? What is it? (share whatever God used to speak to you in the message, eg. scripture, quote, lyric, etc.)

A – How do you feel about what Jesus was speaking to your heart?

B – What do you plan to DO differently this week because of what Jesus spoke to you?

DIG DEEPER:

Read Isaiah 53.

While some disagree, many Christians believe that this chapter is a prophecy about the coming Messiah (Jesus) that was written over 500 years before his birth. Many believe that this passage foretells what Jesus suffered during his death.

a. What jumps out at you as you read this passage? Is there a certain section that grabbed your attention? What do you think about it?

b. How well do you think Jesus understands you and the suffering that you experience in your life?

APPLICATION

We all suffer in life – the great question is how do we handle our suffering – how can we find meaning and purpose in it.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

a. What does the Apostle Paul say about how he personally got through his sufferings?

b. How was Paul personally able to find purpose or meaning in his sufferings?

c. How does this help you (or does it?) find purpose in the suffering you experience?

VERSES, QUOTATIONS & KEY POINTS FROM THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:

Q Magazine

“The song (Someone Like You) was written quickly by Adele on her acoustic guitar, in the wake of her 18 month relationship with a 30 year old man whom she believed was The One. ‘We were so intense I thought we would get married,’ she told Q Magazine. ‘But that was something he never wanted.’”

Lyrics

I heard that you're settled down
That you found a girl and you're married now.
I heard that your dreams came true.
Guess she gave you things I didn't give to you.

Matthew 22:1-10 (NLT)

Jesus also told them other parables. He said,² “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son.³ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!⁴ “So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’⁵ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business.⁶ Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them.⁷ “The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town.⁸ And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honor.’⁹ Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’¹⁰ So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

1. God’s heart has been broken multiple times.

Jeremiah 3:20 (NIV)

²⁰ But like a woman unfaithful to her husband,
so you, Israel, have been unfaithful to me,”
declares the LORD.

Hosea 11:1-4 (NLT)

¹ “When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and I called my son out of Egypt.
² But the more I called to him,
the farther he moved from me,
offering sacrifices to the images of Baal
and burning incense to idols.
³ I myself taught Israel how to walk,
leading him along by the hand.
But he doesn’t know or even care
that it was I who took care of him.
⁴ I led Israel along
with my ropes of kindness and love.
I lifted the yoke from his neck,
and I myself stooped to feed him.

Psalm 41:9 (NLT)

⁹ Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely,
the one who shared my food, has turned against me.

2. God's comfort is big enough to shoulder me.

Adele

“When I did 'Someone Like You' live on *Jools Holland*, I got so upset wondering and hoping and wishing that my ex would be watching it, I went back to my dressing room and sobbed.”

Romans 15:5 (NASB)

⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

Philip Yancey

“I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse.”

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

When your heart is heavy...TURN TO GOD.

- Keep coming to church.
- Throw yourself into God's word.
- Surround yourself with encouraging, God-fearing people, who know how to build up.
- Surround yourself with people who do NOT speak critically about others.

Let me tell you what you should NOT do...

- Don't isolate yourself.
- Don't separate yourself from people who love you.
- Don't insulate yourself from others.
- Don't let your heart grow bitter.
- Don't separate yourself from God!

Rick Warren

“God never wastes a hurt.”

3. God wants to comfort me so I could comfort others.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (NASB)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2-3 (NASB)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

2 Corinthians 1:2-4 (NASB)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction **so that** we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Tom Skinner

“Our churches are little pictures of what heaven’s going to be like.”

Dallas Willard, A Place For Truth

“Everybody’s hurting in some area, because of alcohol, a hurting marriage, sickness, loneliness. Eve the most secular, even the most affluent person needs the whole gospel. They need to know that God loves them; they need to experience God’s forgiveness. They need to experience the warm embrace of Jesus’ new community, the church, if only the church will walk with them and help them struggle with their deepest problems.

How can we tell our neighbors that Jesus will help them overcome their struggles with their marriage if we Christians don’t keep our marriage vows? And how do you suppose that you’re going to keep your marriage vows if while you’re in university you screw around like everybody else? And how can we tell the world that Jesus is the answer to the racial violence and hatred of our world if the church is not a new community that visibly demonstrates a new kind of love and sharing between rich and poor, between black and white?

If by the power of the Holy Spirit the contemporary church would model faithful marriages in our generation, and generous sharing with the poor, and sacrificial caring for every human need, then our evangelistic words would take on an awesome power.”

Mark 14:22-25 (NASB)

²² While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, “Take *it*; this is My body.” ²³ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace

Matthew 16:27 (NIV)

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.