

PILGRIM HOME GROUPS

The smaller groups in our church community are inside our homes where we go deeper, build friendships, and walk out the Christian life with each other.

HOME CHURCH/SMALL GROUP/CLASS GUIDE

1. "Breaking the Ice" question: (group facilitator)
2. Check-ins: What's been happening in your week(s) since last meeting? Introduce yourself if new/new people in group, check in with each other
3. Care: Needs in the group; name needs and have sentence prayers (short sentences/open ended, not long-winded) at end of the gathering time
4. Compassion: What compassion work is the group planning? Are you inviting your neighbors to join?
5. Group Announcements (church-wide and group-only)
6. Dig in: Any reflections, discernments, disagreements from last week's teaching (or since you last met)? Look at the Bible passage(s) again and read some of them out loud in the group (and other verses that may have been mentioned). What jumps out at you? Discuss some of the questions as a group.
7. End and Homework: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

QUESTIONS FOR HOME GROUP: MAY 27, 2018

1. If "you are what you eat" what food would be?
2. What are the pros and cons, as you see them, of being a "realist" about your life and community?
3. Words shape realities. What do you think of the idea that we can only order our own words and thoughts, among other things?
4. How hard would it be for you to practice confessing Christian Scripture over your life and community? Why?
5. What do you think of using images or visual representations to shape your picture/experience of God? What are pros and cons of this?
6. How can our community work to improve it's "speech patterns?"

May 27, 2018

CBC

PILGRIM CHURCH communication basics *for* christians

Creatively Speaking

Three Sundays of Communication Basics for Christians -Skills and Knowledge.
No. 1 Spiritual Power of Words/Foundations about words
No. 2 A Different Result
No. 3 Creatively Speaking

KEY VERSES:

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

James 1:26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasury of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasury produces evil, for his mouth speaks from what fills his heart.

MAIN IDEA: Tension between what we are and what we are becoming.

What you confess, what you meditate on, what you listen to all shape (y)our world.

Being a realist -your perspective is the same as God's. It assumes that we have all the facts about a situation.

Image of the seed and faith Matt. 13:31-32

II. SPEAKING CREATIVELY

2 Cor 4:13

Luke 6:45 45 The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

III. PRACTICES BECOME WHAT YOU ARE!

"... to imagine the world as though YHWH, the creator of heaven and earth, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we name as Father, Son, and Spirit, is a real character and the defining agent in the world."

What we practice, we become. Our "loves" and "desires" are shapeable; they are formed.

1. Confess the promises of God over your life.

2. Get into storytelling.

+ Retell

+ Sam Chan

3. To imagine can also mean the use of images. We cede the visual territory of our mind far too much.

+ The Bible refers to God in many images. Not as idols, but vivid mental pictures that point to His reality.

+ Hebrews 12:2 tells us to "Fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith."

+ The authors of scripture give us Spirit-inspired ways of seeing God.

+ He is a gentle Shepherd (Ps 23:1, Isa 40:11)

+ He is a mighty rock or fortress (2 Sam. 22:47, Pss. 18:2, 31, 19:14, 31:2-3, 59.9. 16-17)

+ A caring Father (Is. 9:6, 66:8)

+ A nurturing Mother (Is 49:15, 65:23, Deut 32:11-12, Matt. 23:37)

+ 2 Cor 3:18 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

IV. TAKE OUTS

1. Assess yourself. Internal words, images, time disconnected.

2. Practice confession, not simply of sins, but who you are in Christ.

3. Practice a mental imaginative image of Jesus.

Suggested resources:

Seeing is Believing - Experiencing Jesus through Imaginative Prayer, Greg A. Boyd.

You Are What You Love, James K.A. Smith

Evangelism in a Skeptical World, Sam Chan.