**Small Group Sermon Questions**

 **Sunday, Sept.29, 2019**

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***Part Four: Redemption Initiated***

**BLESS Rhythms –** At the recent leaders meeeting we discussed having small groups adopt the BLESS Rhythms. For leaders who weren’t there please connect with Dave, Sid or Carolyn to find out what this is all about. If someone in your group has taken Surge they can certainly explain it. See the bottom of the questions for an explanation and description of these rhythms. Small groups are encouraged to begin each session with 10-15 minutes of sharing how you have incorporated the BLESS rhythms into your life each week.

We have found that at the beginning these practices can feel a bit clunky—even the act of talking about who we are eating with/blessing feels weird sometimes. But as you do it week after week it becomes mutually encouraging and soul-shaping. As a group you learn how to practice your faith together and be intentional about blessing others, listening to God and others, eating with others, speaking about our faith, and practicing Sabbath.

Also, know that the aim is not to do every one of these practices every week. Some weeks you will have more opportunities to do some things and not others. That being said, the goal is to push yourself to do the things that you are currently doing.

***Opening question***

1. What is your favourite story of all time? Why is it your favourite?
2. Who is your favourite Biblical character? Why?

***Going Deeper Questions***

1. Read Genesis 3:15, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:3-6. God made promises with Adam and Eve, Abraham, and Moses/Israel. What strikes you about these promises? How are they connected?
2. How much of the promise did Abraham see fulfilled in his life? What does this tell you?
3. Read Genesis 11:4 and Genesis 12:2. What do these passages tell us about our names? How are these ways of naming different? What does our culture say about naming?
4. Read Gen. 12:3 and Luke 12:48. What do these two passages say about blessings? How have we tended to misunderstand the idea of blessings in our culture?
5. Sin went from individual sin – Cain murdering; to communal sin – tower of Babel. How do you see this in our world today?
6. Promises went from an individual – Abraham- but then went communal through Moses. How do you see redemption lived out individually and communally?
7. Abraham had to leave it all behind to follow God’s call. What do you feel you need to leave behind?
8. Read Exodus 19:5-6 and I Peter 2:9. How do these passages connect? Who is the audience in each? What does this mean to us? How do you live out your priestly role?
9. Read I Samuel 7:3, Joshua 24:14-15, I Kings 18:21. Compare these passages. How does Psalm 86:11 fit? How about Ezekiel 11:9?
10. How does the hero of our story win the day? How are we involved in the victory?

**BLESS Rhythms**

**B**LESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

**L**ISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

**E**AT: This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/ inviting into your home?*

**S**PEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

**S**ABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*