

Session 12: Staying on the Right Path

1 Peter 1:22-25: Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you.

Objective: To help participants look back at the time together and thank God for the ways in which he has transformed them. To help participants understand that they can move forward, constantly evaluating what they believe in the light of God’s Word and God’s goals for our lives can never be blocked.

Truth: If we can learn to uncover falsehood and discover Truth through the Word of God, we can continue to move forward with him in the path he has for us.

Review last session:

1. How has your week been as you’ve been considering your relationships?
2. Were you able to tell the story of Onesimus and Philemon to anyone?

New Material:

1. Read 1 Peter 1:22-25, the objective and the truth together.

Peter Walks on Water

Based on NLT

Jesus had just finished feeding 5000 people.

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o’clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the

water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

In the early days of Peter's life with Jesus, Peter didn't always look to Jesus as he should. Peter didn't know it the night he was sinking in the water, but he would later become one of the boldest witnesses of the Good News of Jesus. Many years later he wrote in his letter we now call 1 Peter:

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,

"All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
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but the word of the Lord endures forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:22-25)

Now retell this story in your own words...Use one of the ideas for 'internalising the passage'

Questions for Discussion: (Just ask the questions that didn't get covered when you 'retold' the story. Feel free to omit any questions that don't seem relevant to your situation or that feel redundant.)

1. *What do you like about this story?*
 - a. *Peter's goal was to do the impossible (walk on water) as he saw Jesus doing. What is (are) God's goal(s) for your life?*

2. *Is there anything that bothered you about this story?*
 - a. *Can anything block God's goals for your life?*
3. *What do these stories show you about people?*
 - a. *How did Peter change from the beginning of this story to the end of this story? How do you know he changed? (What was different about the direction in which he looked? In the beginning of the story he looked at the wind and waves, and later he said the Word of God doesn't change...)*
4. *What do these stories show you about God and his Word?*
 - a. *What do you think Peter was learning about God and his Word?*
 - b. *How can focusing on the Word of God prevent us 'drowning' in life?*
5. *How do the truths in this story apply to your life?*
 - a. *Review the attached Significance, Security, and Acceptance list that we used at the beginning of our times together. Answer the questions now. Has anything changed?*
 - b. *Is God asking you to step out of the boat in any way? If so, what might you have that will sustain you so you won't sink?*
 - c. *How might you use God's Word and reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance more effectively now in your life after having gone through these times we've spent together?*

To Take Away

1. Make a plan for continuing Bible study and discipleship. Is there a topic you need to delve into? A book of the Bible?
2. Make a plan for spending time with God. Covenant with God about how you will continue to build your relationship with him. Think about your daily and weekly schedule—it might be helpful to make a chart or look at it on a calendar. Pray over it. Are you spending your energy and time on things that are important to God and his eternal values? If not, what needs to change? Remember that peace, happiness, and fun come when you are resting in who God has made you to be and are willing to be that person.
3. Who can you start to walk alongside and encourage (disciple!)

And finally Thank you for the time spent on this material we pray it has made a big difference to your life. If you still have any comments on this material, please speak to Tricia or Annette, as we'd love to make this material as helpful as possible.

God bless. x

Significance, Security &Acceptance Restored in Christ

I Am Significant

I am no longer worthless, inadequate, helpless or hopeless. In Christ I am deeply significant and special. God says:

Scripture	Truth	I believe this	
		Never	Sometimes
Always			
Matthew 5: 13, 14	I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world.		
John 15: 1, 5	I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life.		
John 15: 16	I have been chosen and appointed by God to bear fruit.		
Acts 1: 8	I am a personal, Spirit-empowered witness of Christ.		
1 Corinthians 3: 16	I am a temple of God.		
2 Corinthians 5: 17-21	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.		
2 Corinthians 6: 1	I am God's fellow-worker.		
Ephesians 2: 6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.		
Ephesians 2: 10	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.		
Philippians 4: 13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!		

I Am Secure

I am no longer guilty, unprotected, alone or abandoned. In Christ I am totally secure. God says:

Scripture	Truth	I believe this	
		Never	Sometimes
Always			
Romans 8: 1,2	I am free forever from condemnation.		
Romans 8: 28	I am assured that all things work together for good.		
Romans 8: 31-34	I am free from any condemning		

	charges against me.
Romans 8: 35-39	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
2 Corinthians 1: 21,22	I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
Philippians 1: 6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Colossians 3: 3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
2 Timothy 1: 7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need.
1 John 5: 18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I Am Accepted

I am no longer rejected, unloved or dirty. In Christ I am completely accepted. God says:

Scripture	Truth	I believe this	
		Never	Sometimes
Always			
John 1: 12	I am God's child.		
John 15: 15	I am Christ's friend.		
Romans 5: 1	I have been justified.		
1 Corinthians 6: 17	I am united with the Lord and I am one spirit with Him.		
1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20	I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.		
Ephesians 1:1	I am a saint, a holy one.		
Ephesians 1: 5	I have been adopted as God's child.		
Ephesians 2: 18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.		
Colossians 1: 14	I have been redeemed and forgiven for all my sins.		
Colossians 2: 10	I am complete in Christ.		

Personal Thoughts and Reflections: