

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 5, 2019

We're All Family Here

Our Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-14

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This week in worship, we watched a video of travel guide Rick Steves introducing Ephesus. What is a memorable vacation for you? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Throughout Paul's writings, he refers to God adopting us. (See: Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:15, 8:23, 9:4 and Galatians 4:5). What does it mean to you that God adopts us as children?
2. In Ephesians 1:10, Paul writes that God will unite all things in heaven and on earth. This reminds me (Kevin) of the David Crowder song, "Come as You Are," which is a modern adaption of Thomas Moore's Poem, "Come Ye Desolate." Both the song and poem declare "Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal." ***What is one thing in your life you are waiting for heaven to heal?***
3. In Ephesians 1:9 God's will is called "a mystery." Where do you find God's will mysterious? Where do you find God's will less mysterious? How do you go about discerning God's will?

MEDIA MIX - About Time

In Christ, God is making God's self known to the world (Ephesians 1:9). This means that we can think of Jesus as the one who contains all the knowledge we need to know about God.

Watch this short story about someone who, quite literally, grew up in a temple of knowledge: a branch of the New York Public Library:

<https://youtu.be/QNeFhMnP7dA>

Does Ronald Clark's story remind you of any of your memories or experiences?

If Jesus is the library that stores all we need to know about Jesus, what (surprising things) might we learn about God from looking at Jesus?

TAKING IT HOME

1. In our 25th Faith Journey group Greg is adding this exercise. What are some of your;
 - Favorite memories?
 - Significant moments?
 - Unexpected events?

Consider spending some time over this 6 week series inviting one member of your group to share thoughts stimulated by these questions. I suggest that one person share each week and the others focus on being attentive listeners, resisting the need to chime in, comment or advise. Holy listening is a great gift to give each other.

If you like this idea decide now on who will have 12 minutes to share over the next few sessions of your group.

2. Brainstorm a list of at list of 5 ways that you can learn about God in your family.

PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAYER TIME

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Housekeeping

1. If you have not decided, when do you plan to wrap up your group
2. Welcome everyone to the group with special attention to any newcomers.
3. Do you have room for new participants? (Group size is best at 8-14 persons) Does anyone know a friend (whether part of Atonement or not) who could be invited to your group? Just making the invitation will tell them you care!
4. Are you able to meet in someone's home this fall cycle?
5. Do you need to arrange child care? (check with Pastor Kevin)
6. Who is bringing treats next week?