

Group Questions – Yearbook: Week 2

05/05/24 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- Do you remember your childhood best friend? Tell the story. Still friends? Where did you meet? etc
- Share a story of something you did with a friend that you probably wouldn't do by yourself.

Into the Bible Questions:

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting etc?
- Pastor Kirby talked about 3 characteristics of a good friend which God shows us.
 1. Unconditional Acceptance
 - **READ:** Proverbs 17:9
 - Put this verse into your own words or definition.
 - It is often difficult to believe/accept that the forgiveness of Jesus is enough; we feel compelled to regularly go back to receive forgiveness from God. Think/talk about this idea. Why? Where does it come from? Do you struggle? Etc
 - **READ:** Romans 10:9
 - Have you ever made this profession?
 2. Unbelievable Peace
 - "A man is known by the company he keeps". We take on characteristics of people we spend a lot of time with. What does "peace" mean to you?
 - **READ:** Galatians 2:20-21
 - Peace doesn't "just happen", it's something we need to pursue. What do you think that means? Life, faith, relationships etc.
 3. Unbeatable Loyalty
 - Talk about the connection of God and loyalty. Is it hard? Easy? Possible? Story of it?
 - God is loyal to us. For you, what does 'being loyal to God' look/act/sound/feel like?

Application Questions:

- If you've never made the inward expression of faith of accepting the forgiveness of God in your life, why or why not?
- If you've made the inward expression, have you made the outward declaration through public baptism?
- If you have not, let's do that! Talk to Pastor Kirby!! kirby@lhwc.org

Characteristics of God and a good friend

1. Unconditional ACCEPTANCE

Proverbs 17:9

⁹ Love prospers when a fault is forgiven,
but dwelling on it separates close friends.

Romans 6:1-2

¹ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

2. Unbelievable PEACE

Romans 5:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

3. Unbeatable LOYALTY

Proverbs 20:6

⁶ Many will say they are loyal friends,
but who can find one who is truly reliable?

Proverbs 18:24

²⁴ There are "friends" who destroy each other,
but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

2 Timothy 2:13

¹³ if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

How to have this relationship with God

1. Accept his offer of FRIENDSHIP

Romans 10:9

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. Pursuing the PEACE that comes from being FRIENDS with God

Galatians 2:20-21

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

3. Embracing a lifestyle of LOYALTY to God

James 4:4-6

⁴...don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”