

RELAUNCH

curriculum

INTRO ::

Our prayer is that we would be people who know God, know the freedom He offers, know that our purpose is found in Him alone, and that with Him we can make a difference as we enter 2019 with great anticipation for all that God has in store for WH.

Praying this boldly for our family::

We introduce others to their maker.

We are living examples of the freedom He offers.

We are confident and at rest in our purpose.

We are difference makers in this world as they see Him in us.

“We are asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know him better. We are praying that the eyes of our hearts maybe be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his might strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:17-20

Week One :: Know God

Read Ephesians 1:17-20.

So often we use words and talk about relationships, but have a hard time defining what they mean or who they are. So, we are starting here with the basics.

Who is God?

What “lifestyle of hope” has He invited you into?

Paul’s prayer for the believers in Ephesus was for them to have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they may KNOW Christ deeper.

Why is it important for us as believers to know Christ?

Wisdom :: the Greek word is “Sophia” meaning the knowledge of how to regulate one’s relationship to God

Revelation :: not only the unveiling of facts but the ability to apply them

Know :: experiential truth. [how does the truth affect your behavior?]

Knowing God. Now that we are getting into it, those two words seem to have expanded like a drop of dye that has hit the water - one simple little drop can change the color of a much larger amount of water.

Knowing our Maker influences everything.

Being His image bearer influences us. [Genesis 1:26]

Being His ambassador influences those around us. [2 Corinthians 5:20]

How do you see this in your life?

Read Romans 10:13-14.

Kicking off 2019, how will you be a part of the West Hills community knowing Christ better this year?

Challenge ::

Read Colossians 2:2-3 [MSG version] morning this week.

Who has God allowed in your life today that needs to encounter the Lord?

If you do not have a person in your life, begin praying God sends you to someone in 2019. If you know God has placed someone in your life, write their name on a card and place it in your bathroom by the mirror and pray for them as you wake up each day. Ask God to show Himself through you each day. Pray for boldness to give away His grace and truth.

Share with your Life Group who is on your mind and what you are praying.

More ::

Spend time reading the Gospels. [matthew, mark, luke & john]

These are accounts of the life of Jesus and display His purpose and personality. As you spend time getting to know Him it will allow you to take the step from “keeping up with him” and “knowing Him personally”.

Jot down some of the attributes that stick out to you.

Do you like those things? Spend time asking the Lord what are some ways are that can you begin to look more like Him in those areas.

Week Two :: Find Freedom

Finding freedom is a huge part of walking with Jesus. If the invitation was for us to be a royal priesthood [1 Peter 2:9] then it would seem as though we were intended to be priests?

Priest :: a mediatory agent between humans and one or more deities.

Read the above definition again.

We were called by our Maker to be a mediator on His behalf. That is an impossible task if we, first, do not know Him and, second, receive the freedom He offers.

The chains we appear to have around our wrists are not how our Maker intended for us to live. He is the power that breaks chains. Knowing Him leads to finding freedom.

Read Romans 8:5-6.

There are two choices in the verse above: living by the flesh or by the Spirit.

One is natural, and one is supernatural.

One we can accomplish on our own, and the other we can with help.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is an area in your life where the flesh is exercising dominance?

Find a scripture that reveals the truth about what you wrote above.

Read James 4:1-10.

Write out 3 things God says to you in this passage.

Last week, we talked about knowing God meaning that we know His purpose and personality. This week, we see in scripture that those areas in our life that do not align with His purpose and personality, we need to confess.

Read James 5:16.

What does God say to you through these words? Write out how this speaks to you in this current season of your life.

Is there a bondage that you need to name and confess?

Read John 8:31-38.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."

NOTE: (v. 32) Know = Experiential Knowledge

What does God say to you through these words?

Challenge ::

Our whole adventure with Jesus revolves around the great commission [Matthew 28:16-20]. Becoming a disciple that then goes on to make another disciple, who then goes on to make another disciple - and so on. IF that is the central piece, then we must first bear the marks of being a disciple.

However, there is no disciple making if you are not walking in freedom. Only free people can free people..

What are the marks of a person walking in freedom? Do you embody those marks?

Spend some time journaling about any marks of bondage you have. Share with your life group!

What's the medicine?

Read Romans 2:1-5.

What drew you to life change? Describe your encounter.

What must be the motivation for life change?

Then, we must be inviting others to bear those marks.

Who do you see around you that is walking in bondage? Ask the Lord to use you in their life to invite them to walk in freedom.

Week Three :: Discover Purpose

Read Ephesians 1:17-18.

Hope :: An attitude of optimistic expectation or desire

Calling/called :: in this passage means invited

Knowing these definitions, how do you view hope and calling?

In a world that is compelled by winning, performing, and climbing the success ladder, someone who lives compelled by the purpose set by Jesus is going to stand out.

What is the purpose Jesus set for our lives?

Read Luke 6:20-26.

What does God say to you through these words?

Right about now, you're probably wondering how this is everyone's purpose. If we are all created to be unique image bearers of our Maker, then how are we all called to one thing?

Here is how ::

Purpose :: For all believers. [EPHESIANS 1:17-18]

Passions :: The Lord has placed in individual hearts. [1 CORINTHIANS 12:27]

Gifts :: The Spirit gives to each individual person. [ROMANS 12:6]

Challenge ::

The outward expression and behaviors of our lives are an overflow of the hope in our hearts. When we put our hope in anything other than Jesus, we are sacrificing a deeper, better hope that is in Him.

What are your hopes for 2019?

What are your hopes for your Life Group in 2019?

What's one step you can take in the direction of those hopes? [individually and as a group]

Week Four :: Make a Difference

This week, read the book “You Are Special.”

What does the Holy Spirit say to you / remind you of as you read this story?

What are the dots and /or stars that you have been given? What dots and / or stars are you giving?

Read Ephesians 1:17-18.

Glorious :: having, worthy of, bringing fame or admiration

What does the character of Lucia teach us about the whole concept of glorifying each other?

Pray :: “God would you enable me (personally) and West Hills (in community) to understand the glorious riches/ inheritance you have for us as followers of Christ (saints) and to know because of His power in us He can accomplish His purposes through us. Teach us to see each other for Whose we are instead of what we can accomplish.”

How are we to be glorious?

Read the following passages and write down how we are to “be glorious”.

· John 15:8

· John 17:4

· John 17:22-23

Read Ephesians 1:19-22.

What does this passage say about how we as a Church are to accomplish knowing Him, living in freedom, living out our purpose and making a difference in the world around us?

Challenge ::

This is all a big sham if we don't partake in giving it away.

If we aren't introducing others to Jesus, walking with them into freedom, helping them discover their purpose and linking arms with them to make a difference, then how can we fulfill the great commission?

Read 1 Peter 4:10.

Who are you walking with?

If you aren't walking with someone, spend time this week asking the Lord to reveal someone to you.

Share with your life group the name. Hold each other accountable!