

Sermon-Based Group

2 October 2022

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Vision!

Imagine a group of people in an authentic community, loving each other honestly, covering each other's sins with forgiveness, prayer, confession, and encouragement, serving and supporting each other genuinely. When we dream of a small group of people dwelling together in unity, we begin to see the supernatural work of God within our relationships. Thank you for facilitating life change by hosting or leading a sermon-based small group, our prayer as your pastors is that you would experience God's grace by building a life-giving culture.

1. **Connect.** This is a time to personally connect, introduce yourself and share a bit about who you are. Each week you are together, go a little deeper and more personal. This is a time to catch up from the last time you met and ask about their family, relationships, work, hobbies, and anything they spend time on. This helps our hearts connect so that they can be formed later through the Word and the Presence of God. Everyone wants to belong somewhere.
2. **Worship.** You can take some time and play a few worship songs on a speaker or TV that would facilitate focus on God. Take some time to thank God for who He is; before asking or seeking, just be grateful, and tell your soul that it's time to bless the Lord. (Psalm 103: 1) If you don't have any music, you can turn into worship, use one of the Psalms, and read prayerfully through that. You can pray with an attitude of thanking God for His nature. Psalm 145, 146, 40, 8, 65, 98, and 150.
3. **Summarize.** Take turns summarizing the message in your own words, and allow everyone to participate in translating the message. This is not a personal application yet, only taking turns summarizing the news and building it in its entirety. Make sure you, as a small group leader, are filling in any gaps; the main point, scripture, and the end of the message.
4. **Personal.** This section will allow you to go deeper and be sensitive to God's activity in people's lives. Ask questions and facilitate conversation about the message this past weekend.
 - What did you get out of the message, and why?
 - Go over the primary scriptures from the message.
 - How will this influence your soul (mind, will, heart, and emotions), your work, and your life?
 - What is God asking you to be or to do based on the message?

Summary for Groups

Our world is in desperate need of a different example of how to live life. While the world lives in fear, we need to be fearless as a people. The charge God has given His church is to stand out, to be set apart, to be holy. Not to make others think we are better than them, but to offer another way to live, the way Jesus lived, as a priest. A Priest's life is all about action. What they do, where they go, and how they do it sends a message. The life of a priest is not timid and weak. It's a life of boldness, courage, and an authentic community. Said simply, Priests are Beasts. Priests, like everyone else in the world, have certain clothing they wear to make them fit in but at the same time stand out. Let's love loudly in a world where actions speak louder than words.

Scriptures for Review

1 Peter 2:9

1 Chronicles 15:14-15

Ephesians 6:11

And Scriptures listed with questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words describe a priest. Is there a difference in what you thought a priest was compared to these two stories in the bible? (2 Chronicles 26:16-18, Numbers 25:1-13)
2. If the life of a priest is all about action, what message are you sending? Consider your calendar, your spare time, how you conduct your work, the health of your relationships, and how you spend your money.
3. How would you describe the idea of clothes making you stand out and fit in? Read Exodus 28:1-4 and Colossians 3:12-17.
4. If one of the main responsibilities of a priest is to 'carry the presence of God', how do you do this, or how do you plan on letting your relationship with God be seen through your actions?
5. Discuss the quotes of C.S. Lewis and Edmund Burke and how our actions speak louder than words.

"In such a fearful world, we need a fearless church." C.S. Lewis

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing." E. Burke

5. **Application.** Take this time to ask what everyone will do with what they heard from the message.
What will you do with what you heard?
What is God asking you to be, and/or do, with what you heard?
6. **Pray.** Take some time to pray with and for each other.

Communication.

Here is a bit about the church life we want you to know about.

- Baptisms on the 8th and 11th of September.
- Groups Fall Kickoff starts 12 September.