

MADE NEW

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

GROUP CHECK-IN:

Part of the rhythms of us as a group is to move beyond just *learning* but moving through life together. This space to start is a great way to begin to move into sharing rhythms together, trusting and being faithful with the relationships entrusted to us.

Ask this question: "***What is one thing you're having to trust Jesus with right now?***"

Give space for everyone to answer, stopping to pray for one another as the Holy Spirit leads.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

We began this week with our new series "Made New." Over the next five weeks, we will be centered around one question: "*What does it mean to really flourish spiritually?*" With this idea of spiritual flourishing, we are going to look through Scripture and dive into five postures that need to be in place for us to spiritually flourish. There are likely more, and for sure dive in as the Holy Spirit leads your group! But as we examine these five, each of these is born out of a deep dive into God's Word.

SUNDAY RECAP:

We looked at our first posture: our Identity in Christ. **The truest thing about you is what Jesus does for you.** As we looked at Paul's letters to the Ephesians we see that Paul was saying that Jesus' work on our behalf is the most important aspect of human identity. To refresh, read **Ephesians 1 & 2** together as a group.



CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- When you first heard the question: *“what does it mean to flourish spiritually?”* - what came to your mind. Whether impacted by how the Holy Spirit spoke through the message or how He has spoken to you in your walk with Jesus, take some time to talk about this idea of flourishing spiritually.
- In Ephesians 1 we see as Pastor Brannon declared Paul’s “beautiful, tender words” of the work of Jesus in us as followers of Christ. **Adopted. Blameless. Holy. Redeemed. Chosen. Sealed.** Talk about these - which of these concepts do you struggle with in your identity? Which do you cling to? What happens when we use this as a lens not only to see ourselves but by which we see fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

EVERY DAY TO EVERYONE:

As we hear God’s Word, examine God’s Word, our lives move in response to His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We want you to take space to process what steps to take so that we can make much of Jesus every day to everyone. Don’t feel pressured to move in bigger steps than where God has you - you can process these individually or move in step as a group.

• **First Steps (RECOGNIZE/REMEMBER):**

Pastor Brannon asked the question: **Which side of the record are you on?** If you are a follower of Jesus, a great first step today is to remember the life that you have in Jesus. But maybe you are sitting here and have never come to God. Maybe you have never confessed your sin and have never asked for the forgiveness that is available to you on the cross because of Jesus. What if today you made this personal? Because you are **“designed to live in the security of knowing who you are.”** Talk to your group leader, someone you trust from your group or reach out to one of our Pastors (you can **email Pastor Matt here**) if you have further questions about what we studied and what it means for us to be dead in sins and for Jesus to die on the cross to satisfy God’s wrath and make a way for us to be alive in Him.

- **Next Steps (TALK ABOUT JESUS):**

We all like to talk about things. Some things more than others. But one of the big takeaways from this is that our Identity in Christ should lead us to make much of Jesus, every day to everyone. Pastor Brannon asked three questions to help springboard your next steps - examine your life honestly to these and then take the next step to talk about Jesus more.

- ***What if you live your life in such a way to make Jesus simply unavoidable?***
- ***How might conversations be different if you talked about what Jesus' done?***
- ***How might our world be different?***

- **Further Steps (SHOW LOVE):**

This past summer we ran through 1 John (if you missed it, you can go back and listen ***online***). In 1 John we defined love as ***pursuing God's best for someone at great cost to myself***. Pastor Brannon gave us a call that *"the church is a people who believe that because everyone is made in God's image, anyone is in reach of God's love."* And yet, showing love to all people (and especially our enemies) is hard - it costs. But as followers of Christ, our posture is to show love in the same way Christ loved us: ***re-read Ephesians 1 & 2 if you need to***. With this in mind, letting God's love drive your love for neighbor, identify either individually or as a group, what does it look like to ***show love*** to those around you? Not arguing with them, but loving them as Christ has loved us.

Close in prayer, asking Jesus to strengthen you and the Holy Spirit to lead you as your take steps to make much of Him in your every day to your everyone.