

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

January 3rd

Pastor Woody's message this week was appropriately titled: "No Accidents/No Excuses." Life is difficult! All things are not yet made right and redeemed...we live in a broken world! Sometimes, we are more acutely aware of this than others, but it is technically...true all the time! Our sense of who we are is very much determined by the places, circumstances and people we have in our lives. It would be really easy to give into chaos and despair...but remember: "In Extremis" - **'THERE IS ANOTHER WAY.'** Looking at the life and calling of Jeremiah in the Old Testament can give us insight on how to approach 2021. Just like Jeremiah's life, few can look back over the trials of 2020 with envy... But the "Word of the Lord" came to Jeremiah in the midst of chaos and despair. God is on His throne and can do amazing things in the midst of chaos and despair.

Community Prayer:

Father God, as we move out of 2020 and into 2021 we do so with an expectation of better days. Thank you for moving us into this new year, many did not make it this far, so our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost loved one's last year. Help us to comprehend that you love us with an everlasting love; our future is always in your hands. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive this message of hope, as we learn from the Prophet Jeremiah, that "you knew us before we were formed in our Mother's womb"; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. As we move from 2020 to 2021 what have you learned from last year that will help you be a better follower of Jesus in the New Year?
2. What spiritual disciplines will you commit to as your "resolution" for 2021?

EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

Known – NO ACCIDENTS (I am known / you are known / we are known by God)



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Jeremiah 1: 5a... "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you"

3. Share what this verse means to you personally.
4. How does this make you feel in light of what you went through in 2020 or what you may go through in 2021?

Psalm 139: 16

5. How does your "free will" factor into God knowing the number of your days?
 6. What message does it send to you to realize that He knew this before you existed on this earth?
- God sees something in us that we may not even see in ourselves (potential / being redeemed and matured into our true God-intended self)
 7. What has God revealed to you regarding how He wants to use you in this season and beyond?

Chosen – NO MISTAKES (I have been chosen / you have been chosen / we have been chosen)

Jeremiah 1: 5b..."before you were born I set you apart"

8. What is your understanding of how God has set you apart?
 9. What do you think God has chosen you to do? How do you know? What method of discernment do you use? (If you don't know, please join us for the Equipping [Class Click here to register](#)).
- Your IDENTITY IN GOD IS SIGNIFICANT – In Christ, you are not plain or ordinary / you are not deficient or lacking – you are set apart for such a moment as this, YES, even in...especially in...a PANDEMIC!
 10. How has God used you during this season of the Pandemic?
 11. What do you think God is preparing you to do in 2021?
***Take this opportunity to SAY IT OUT LOUD so your group can come along side you in your journey.

Appointed and Sent out by God – NO EXCUSES (We are being sent on mission!)



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Jeremiah 1: 5c... "I appointed you as a prophet to the nations"

12. How has God prepared you to share your faith with others?
13. Why is it difficult for some to share their faith? (give some reasons they use, or you use)
14. Why is it important for you to be a part of reaching others with your personal message of hope?
 - a. Have you every written your story out? There is no better testimony than your own.

Jeremiah 1: 7-8

15. What excuse did Jeremiah use for not being ready to be God's prophet? What's your excuse? (Or, are you all in on sharing?)
16. Why do you think that many people are fearful of sharing their story with others?

- "Your IDENTITY IN GOD is not about what you HAVE, but what God can do in you."

THE TAKEAWAY

"In Extremis" – THERE IS ANOTHER WAY!"

What does 2021 look like if we are not just running from 2020?

Jeremiah 29: 5,7,8

- Don't run / Don't hide – BE IN COMMUNITY (Growing in Community – right here, right now)
- In surviving, don't just look to yourself – SERVE OTHERS
- Be careful what you listen to, what you hope for, and what you expect out of 2021...LOOK AND LISTEN TO GOD

You are Known – No Accidents

You are Chosen – No Mistakes

You are being sent out – No Excuses



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I am called, you are called, we are all called into 2021 to plant ourselves right where we are at – to live with a resolute IDENTITY! Live in the Identity and power of Christ! AMEN

PRAYER REQUESTS

