2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

January 10th
Pastor Aaron started a new series on transformation this week entitled: "Courage and Strength in God to Boldly Step into The New." When we think about change we often think about what needs to change around us. However, when God does His work of transformation, He starts with what needs to change **in us**. It is in these times of transition and transformation, when we realize the courage needed is available in God. He gives us the strength that empowers us to be who God created us to be. Seasons of disruption are great times to experience the reality that God does **"New Things Now".** We don't have to wait to participate. We don't have to stay trapped. His new work of transformation is ready right here, right now.

Community Prayer: (Please read this prayer as a group)
Everlasting Father, as we go through days of divisiveness and violence as a nation, We're reminded that this nation was founded on your principles, and ask that we pray instead of protest, that we embrace our differences and common goals, instead of using hostility and dissension to keep us divided. Let us realize that no one person can meet all of our needs, only you can do that. May we have the courage and strength in you to boldly step into the new, and not allow ourselves to be manipulated by others to embrace disunity and separation but allow this change to begin in us; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. What needs to change in you that will act as a catalyst for change in our society?
2. What needs to change in you, for you to experience all that God desires?

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)

Joshua 1: 1-3

1. How do you think Joshua felt after being called by God to take Moses' place?
2. How do you think God prepared him for this assignment?
3. Have you ever been overwhelmed by feeling unprepared for what God put in front of you? How did you handle this? What was the outcome?

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How can we be strong and courageous when life is so challenging?

1. **<u>God's Promises:</u>**

   Some people think God's promises are only being fulfilled when things are going their way.

   Philippians 1: 6

   - Where does our confidence come from, and who is responsible for bringing it to fruition? Share how this makes you feel…Are you relieved…encouraged…or challenged by this idea?

   2 Corinthians 1: 20-22

   - How do you know that God is a Promise Keeper?
   - Why can you stand firm in Christ about the Promises of God?
   - Who is our seal of ownership? How has this helped you trust in the promises of God.
   - God's faithfulness to His promises has been on full display (especially lately). Where have you seen His faithfulness shine through?

2. **<u>God's Word:</u>**
   Joshua 1: 7-8 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the Law my Servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

   - How did God tell Joshua where he would get the strength and courage he needed?
   - What needed to accompany the reading of God's Word?
   - Why is obedience to the Word of God important for us today?
   - What does it mean to meditate on God's Word? Talk about how you go about meditating on God's Word.

"Reading God's Word gives us information, Obedience to it brings about Transformation." (Pastor Ed Riley)

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Matthew 4: 4

- Why is it important for you feed your spiritual body as well as your physical body? What benefits are obtained from the feeding of your spiritual body? Talk about times when you feel like you are "starving spiritually".

"We will not find ultimate success, fulfillment and prosperity in life apart from an ongoing personal interaction with God through Scripture."

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

- To be thoroughly equipped by God we need a daily dose of His Word. How has God's Word helped you navigate life in this season?

3. **<u>God's Presence:</u>**
   Joshua 1: 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
   - How does it make you feel to know that God is with you wherever you go?
   - Why do you think God had to tell Joshua to be strong and courageous more than once? Has God ever reminded you of something more than once? Share what that was or why God had to remind you repeatedly?

John 16: 33

- What is your response when trouble or hardships come your way? How does the knowledge of God's presence and peace help you during these times?

4. **<u>God's People:</u>**
   Joshua 1: 16-17
   - The people showed their support for Joshua, and confirmed by repeating what God told him to do "be strong and courageous." How do you show your support of Church Leadership? (Are you praying…sending a note of encouragement…reaching out personally?)

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THE TAKEAWAY
"Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change"
Leadership or influence is about bringing change wherever you are and in whatever role you occupy…if we assume responsibility for bringing change, and if that change requires people to change – and will require us to change – then we are leading.

"God's training is for now, not presently. His purpose is for this minute, not for something in the future…God's end is to enable me to see that He can walk on the chaos of my life right now…if we realize that obedience is the end, then each moment as it comes is precious." (Oswald Chambers)

We all have the capacity & opportunity to be a part of God's work of doing new things, NOW!

PRAYER REQUESTS

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