

Group Questions- 6/11/2023

A Working Faith: Week 1

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- Would you rather explore space or the ocean?
- When life seems out of control, people can do some crazy things. What's the funniest thing you remember hearing about, seeing, or doing during one of those times?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, or was interesting?
- **READ:** Psalm 23
- What do the words of verse 1-4 mean to you?
- In what ways has it been difficult for you to have a faith that works when life hasn't been working?
- Take the time to read the following passages; Then respond to: It's easy to only listen to people we agree with or who say things we like. Why is hard for you to listen to people who don't think or believe the way you do?
 - Proverbs 14:15
 - Proverbs 13:16
 - Proverbs 18:13
 - Proverbs 18:2
 - Proverbs 14:8
- Every crisis in our life and in this world feels like things are spinning out of control. The approach to solving it changes frequently, oftentimes out of necessity. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What does this tell you about what we can focus on during chaos?
- Pastor Kirby gave us 5 ways we can grow our faith to work when life doesn't work. Which one is difficult for you to remember? Which one has been something you've been able to hold on to?
 - Remember: not everything you hear is true.
 - Remember: This will pass
 - Remember: Focus on what is unchanging.
 - Remember: No matter what I go through, God is with me.
 - Remember: God wants to use me to help others.

Application Questions:

- Every need in our world is an open door to help others. What open a door has God placed in front of you for you to step through and serve your community or someone in need?
- If you have time, search youtube or your music service for the song "Valley's Fill First" by Caedmon's Call and listen together. The words are on the back of this sheet.

“Valley’s Fill First”

by: Caedmon’s Call

Album: Long Line of Leavers

Verse 1

This is a valley
That I'm walking through
And it feels like forever
Since I've been close to you
My friends up above me
Don't understand why I struggle like I do
My shadow's my only, only companion
And at night he leaves, too

Chorus

Down in the valley
Dying of thirst
Down in the valley
It seems that I'm at my worst
My consolation is that
You baptized this earth
Well, down in the valley
Valleys fill first

Verse 2

Out in this wasteland
I miss the mountaintop view
But it's here in this valley
That I'm surrounded by You
Though I'm not here by my will
It's where Your view is most clear
So I stay in this valley
If it takes 40 years

Chorus

Down in the valley
Dying of thirst
Down in the valley
It seems that I'm at my worst
My consolation is that
You baptized this earth
Well, down in the valley
Valleys fill first

Series: A Working Faith

Week 1

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight.

Matthew 4:5-7

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

“If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed, but if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest.” – Corrie Ten Boom

Psalms 23:1-4

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

How do we have a faith that works when life doesn't seem to be working out?

James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes **scattered** among the nations:
Greetings.

Emotion: Fear

Ways to grow a working faith:

1. Remember: not everything you hear is true.

Proverbs 14:15

¹⁵ The gullible believe anything they're told;
the prudent sift and weigh every word.

Proverbs 13:16

¹⁶ All who are prudent act with knowledge,
but fools expose their folly.

Proverbs 18:13

¹³ To answer before listening—
that is folly and shame.

Proverbs 18:2

² Fools find no pleasure in understanding
but delight in airing their own opinions.

Proverbs 14:8

⁸ The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways,
but the folly of fools is deception.

Tips when speaking into someone's valley.

- 1) Be sure they want it.
- 2) Be sure that what you say is true.

2. Remember: This will pass

Romans 8:22-25

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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That I'm walking through
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Down in the valley
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- Caedmon's Call "Valley's Fill First"

3. Remember: Focus on what is unchanging.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

4. Remember: No matter what I go through, God is with me.

Isaiah 43:5

⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

5. Remember: God wants to use me to help others.

Matthew 25:34-40

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’