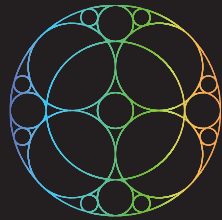


Discussion Guide.



The Church I See

WEEK .02

IS PASSIONATE ABOUT _____

Teaching Text



Hebrews 1: 3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being...

John 14:7-9 7

"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."
8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Recap

This week Banning Liebscher continues the series called “**The Church I See**”. The primary mission of the church is to advance the Kingdom. When Jesus came, He came to reveal the Father and represent Who He is. When people encountered Jesus, they saw the Father. His heart, His nature and character, His love for them, His passion to see them free. Our lives should do the same. When people encounter us, they should see the Father. People should be able to look at us and see what the Father is like. That’s a big statement, but the Holy Spirit is daily working in our lives and transforming our lives to look like Jesus and therefore reveal the Father to the world around us.

The church I see is a radically generous church because our Father is radically generous. **John 3:16** (one of the most well known verses in the Bible) illustrates the Father’s generosity. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” He gave us His only Son and hasn’t stopped giving. God is not stingy, with anything He has. He gives freely to us His: life, love, forgiveness, patience, mercy, grace,

encouragement, resources, support, strength, time and attention. The Father’s generosity should stir within us a desire to live generously.

One of the keys to living generously is to understand and acknowledge that what we have is because of Him. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (**James 1:17**)”. For us living in the western world, this can be quite difficult. There is a pride that creeps in that says what I have is because of me; I worked hard for this, I earned this, I sacrificed for this, I fought for this. Humility recognizes that all that I have, God has given me and that’s why it’s so easy to be generous with my life. Freely you have received, freely you give.

Discussion Guide

EMOTIONAL HEALTH CHECK IN

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check in with your Community, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

What are three words you would use to describe the current season you are in?

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

ENGAGE

1. Is generosity something that comes naturally to you? Did you grow up in a home that modeled generosity?
2. What comes up for you when you think about God as a Father Who withholds nothing? Do you think this is something that you truly believe?
3. In what ways do you live radically generous (time, talents, resources)?
4. What gets in the way of you giving freely as Jesus gives to us?

ENCOUNTER

Spend a few minutes in stillness and quiet (you may want to play soaking music) in your group and ask Holy Spirit the following question:

Is there any area in my life where I have allowed pride to creep in, and are there places where I am holding onto what I believe to be mine?

If time permits, allow those who want to, share what God spoke to them during the Encounter time.

EQUIP

As a group, think of specific ways in which you would like to be equipped, challenged and strengthened in the area of generosity. Spend some time praying into these areas. Throughout the week, find 2-3 practical ways in which you can practice radical generosity. It could look like: buying coffee for the person behind you at Starbucks, calling someone you haven't talked to in a while and giving them a word of encouragement or serving your community by volunteering your time. We will talk about your experience next week.

