

For the week of November 12-18, 2017

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from November 12

Freed from Fear

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" –Romans 8:14-15*

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Sons and Daughters of God

As we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit is an assurance that we belong to God. We aren't living in the condemnation of sin (v. 1), we have overcome the power of sin (v. 2). Today's key verse says that if we are led by the Spirit, we are the sons and daughters of God. We belong to Him, He's our Father. That's the most assuring thing. Being called His sons and daughters implies that we have all the rights and privileges as a child has here on Earth. He loves us, He cares for us, He teaches us and redirects us when necessary. He helps us grow.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. How is your life impacted by the reality that God is your Father, and He has given you the Spirit to overcome?
2. Are there benefits to sonship that you have yet to lay hold of? Are there ways that you could allow God more room to truly be your Father? Discuss that as a group, and spend time this week praying for Him to show you where you can be more open to Him.

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: No More Living in Fear

Before we were sons and daughters of God, before we lived by the power of the Spirit and beyond our natural abilities, we had to deal with all sorts of fearful circumstances. But now, because we have the Holy Spirit, He leads us beyond fear, beyond our comfort zone, to overcome those things we fear.

There are so many things we fear in life. More than anything, as we decide to walk in the Spirit, it is a scary thing to be completely open about our sin and our struggles. To admit to God the depths of the things we are struggling with in life. To live in the light with others and be open with each other in our failures. To confess sin is so scary. But God calls us to do it. He tells us to repent so that times of refreshing may come (Acts 3:19).

The list of sin that God is calling us to leave is long, and it can be so intimidating. He's calling us to let go of our greed. It's scary to not use your money to serve your purposes, to give more than your financial perspective says you can afford.

It's scary to forgive people and let your walls down and forgive someone who has hurt you. It takes courage that we don't have to not let that root of bitterness grow, to not protect yourself. It's very scary to forgive seventy times seven. But if we are led by the Spirit, we have to overcome our fear that holds us back.

God calls us to seasons that our fear wants to cripple us in. The Spirit leads us beyond scary things into this amazing promise that we are His kids. He is going to take care of us and give us what we need in spite of the fear that is telling us we can't. It's good to confess sin, it's good to commit to the relationships God has given us, to forgive, to give generously. But to do those things is very scary. If we are really led by the Spirit we can overcome those fears. And once we overcome, He gives us more joy and peace than we would've had if we had been crippled by fear and unable to step out into what God has for us.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. What are you afraid of?
2. What is the scariest thing you have ever felt God call you to do?
3. Discuss some examples of times when fear has kept you from following God.
4. In what ways have you been a slave to fear?
5. What Spirit-led thing is God calling you to that you are totally afraid of?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show believers how to live like Jesus, empowered by the leading of the Holy Spirit so that their divinely inspired and life-changing love reveals God to the world around them. Pray that the lives of the family members at Calvary Boise glorify God and draw others into His Kingdom. Pray that we will be actively engaged in pursuing revival.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@ccboise.org with your insight.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

“Freely ye have received freely give.” –Matthew 10:8

“I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. For we are laborers together with God.” –1 Corinthians 3:6, 9

For the members of churches in these days to pray, “Thy Kingdom Come,” and then spend more money on jewelry and cigars than in the enterprise of foreign missions looks almost like a solemn farce. God has no blessings for stingy pockets. When I hear requests for prayer for the conversion of a son or daughter, I say to myself, How much is that parent doing to win that child for Christ? The godly wife who makes her daily life attractive to her husband has a right to ask God for the conversion of that husband; she is cooperating with the Holy Spirit, and prepaying her heart’s request. God never defaults; but He requires that we prove our faith by our works, and that we never ask for a blessing that we are not ready to labor for, and to make any sacrifice to secure the blessing our souls desire. –Theodore L. Cuyler

About the Author: Theodore L. Cuyler was a leading American Presbyterian minister, graduate of Princeton’s Divinity School and religious writer, who lived from 1822 to 1909.

Our Community Life Group:

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Prayer Requests for Our International Missions

- Please pray for Becca Brown who ministers with her husband Marlon in Vancouver, B.C. As many of you know Becca was in a hit-and-run car accident that left her with nerve damage and chronic pain. She has had several surgeries but nothing has improved. Recently, her ability to speak has diminished and her speech is very slurred. On November 27 she will have another, more experimental procedure in Oregon. Pray that it is effective and that she is completely healed. Marlon will be staying behind with the ministry and their young children. Please pray that Becca is well connected with believers in Oregon who will tend to her needs while she is so far from home.

Prayer Requests for our Children’s Ministry

- The Children’s Ministry needs at least eight people (10 would be best) to serve on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. Pray that members of our church family would respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading in this area.
- We also have some coordinators leaving; pray for them in the new seasons that God is drawing them into. And pray that the Lord will bring the right people to fill their places. Pray especially for Rhett to have wisdom and discernment as he prays about who to talk to about being coordinators.