

DISCUSSION

VISION - On Sunday, Mark continued the sermon series Get Real by talking about the biblical concept of generational sin - what is it and what is it not, where is Christ in that, and how do we begin anew in these areas? As Mark shared, we go back in order to go forward not because the chains of our past aren't broken in Christ, but we often live as a mix of Christlikeness and the brokenness of our past and miss all that God has for us. There is an invitation to all believers to be chain breakers in these areas, and mark acknowledged that is a consistent effort over the long haul through the power of Christ.

SCRIPTURE - Exodus 34:6-7

DISCUSSION - (feel free to make this a little shorter, if needed, to have ample space for the break up time)

1. Read Exodus 34:6-7. As Mark shared on Sunday, this is the most quoted passage by the Bible in the Bible. Why do you think it is a significant passage?
2. Mark clarified that other passages of scripture make it clear that this passage is not saying that we will be judged because of the sins of our parents or previous generations. In addition, there is no generational curse if we are in Christ. However, as Exodus 34 alludes to, we still feel the effects of generational sin impact us as believers to the 3rd and 4th generation. What are some of the ways that plays out, and what would some relevant examples be?
 - a. Leaders - For example - parents' sinful decisions can directly affect us, we learn unhealthy or harmful ways of living from what we see, etc. Allow people to share specific examples, such as lack of
3. Refer to the 10 commandments tool (from Emotionally Healthy Spirituality) that Mark shared for some specific examples. How do these broken patterns of living we often learn impact us and impact others around us, and why is it important that we take that seriously?
4. Look back at Exodus 34:6-7. As Mark shared, that could be translated to a "thousand generations," and we see God's incredible generosity to all who turn to Him. Ultimately, that generosity is most clearly seen in Christ and His work on the cross, that anyone who comes to him is no longer under bondage to generational or personal sin, and is a new person. Why is this an important truth, and how do we apply that to our broken areas?
 - a. Leaders - Helping people think here both theologically and practically about how the gospel and generational sin intersect. We need to understand that: 1) the work of Jesus is more powerful than generational sin and its effects 2) We are no longer our past experiences or habits 3) We still have a responsibility to proactively fight battles in the application of our victory in Christ
5. Mark shared that while there are a number of ways that we walk out of this such as grieving the brokenness, repenting of our sin, forgiving and releasing others, walking in God's redemption to bless others in our brokenness (we will hit these later in the series), the first start to all this is awareness. Pete Scazzero gets painstakingly specific with the 10 unwritten commandments of his family in His book, Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

Mark encouraged us to start the awareness journey by making and putting in words our own, specific “10 unwritten commandments of our family.” Why is awareness important, and why is getting that specific important?

1. Leaders - most of us have a general idea of our own family's issues, but until we think through specific categories and then put into our own words the unwritten rules, we realize we don't have a grip on things as clearly as we thought. As Mark shared, it's hard to change and fight battles that you don't know you are already in.

BREAK UP - As Mark has shared, we'll get as much breakthrough in this series as we'll put in work. Over the next number of weeks, we'll be taking time in guys and ladies groups to process what God is doing in us, as well as share how we're applying the practice the growth “homework” and how that experience has been. We'll be asking similar questions every week.

1. What is God doing in you this week through this sermon series/passage?
2. Did you take time to apply the sermon & write out the 10 commandments, and if so, how did it go? You can share as much or as little as you feel comfortable with.
 - i. Reminder, this week's practice was to take 5 minutes to prayerfully reflect at the end of each day by asking some simple questions like: a) What was good today that I can thank God for? b) What was hard today that I can mourn, repent, or vent to God? c) Is there a fear keeping me back from trusting God and being myself?
3. Is there anything you need to do coming out of this, and how can we as a group pray for you and support you in that?