

union

C H U R C H

Groups | ELEMENTARY

Get Started

It's Summertime!! Welcome to Summer Groups!! We are excited to do life with you! We pray that this summer you'll find community, create lifelong friendships, and create long lasting memories!

Icebreaker: If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Why?

Start with Scripture

Matthew 19:16-24 ¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" ¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother, and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. ²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Make it Personal

Pastor Stephen delves into the fundamental concept of repentance, emphasizing the futility of "dead works" and how true repentance means turning away from these. He categorizes people into three states: in a storm, just came out of a storm, or about to go into a storm, illustrating that without grounded faith, one can easily be shipwrecked by life's trials.

Here are three critical points to understand repentance from dead works and maintain grounded faith:

- **Point 1: Stop Keeping Score, You Can't Win-** We all tend to keep score in various aspects of life, comparing ourselves to others and rationalizing our sins by saying things like, "at least I didn't do blank." However, this mindset is futile.
 - 2 Corinthians 10:12 Tells us not to compare ourselves with others.
 - We can't erase sin through our works; only Jesus can do that.
 - Isaiah 1:18 and Ephesians 2:8-9 remind us of the grace of God and the futility of trying to earn salvation through works.
 - **Q.** What resonated most with you from this part of the message?
 - **Q.** Read 2 Corinthians 10:12. How does this scripture resonate with you?
 - **Q.** In what ways do you find yourself keeping score in life, and how can you shift your focus to God's grace instead?

- **Point 2: Proximity Moves God, Not Performance-** We often think God owes us something because of our deeds, but it's our relationship with Him that truly matters.
 - **John 2:3-5** shows that God acts out of love for us, not because of what we do.
 - God doesn't do things for us because of our actions but because of who we are to Him.
 - Jesus breaks the rules on our behalf out of love and compassion.
 - **Q-** What resonated most with you from this part of the message?
 - **Q-** Read John 2:3-5. How does this scripture resonate with you?
 - **Q-** How can you focus more on your relationship with God rather than trying to earn His favor through actions?

Point 3: The Score is Already Settled- If you have no issue with sin, it might indicate you haven't truly met God. God's love compels us to turn away from sin.

- o **Romans 6:1-4** emphasizes that true repentance involves a complete turn away from sin.
- o The story in **Matthew 19:16-24** isn't just about wealth but about the impossibility of earning one's way into heaven.
- o We are joint heirs with Christ, as stated in **Romans 8:15-17**. We must adopt Jesus's position and accept God's gifts.
- o **Q.** What resonated most with you from this part of the message?
- o **Q.** Read Romans 6:1-4. How does this scripture resonate with you?
- o **Q.** Reflect on Matthew 19:16-24. How does understanding this passage change your view on earning favor with God?

Takeaway Points:

- Spiritual maturity is crucial for navigating life's storms.
- Don't try to earn God's favor through works; focus on your relationship with Him.
- Remember, you are a joint heir with Christ, and God's love compels us to turn from sin.
- Our lives should reflect Christ, leading others to Him.
- The score is already settled; live in the freedom and grace that Jesus provides.

Activity:

Give your groups 5 minutes to write down a practical next step from today's discussion.

Prayer Requests

- Ask your group members to share any prayer requests they have.
- Pray and close out your group.

Reminders

- Be sure to take attendance today!
- Continue to add and accept people to your group.
- Announcements:
 - o Serve Day is Saturday, July 13th!
 - o Growth Track Step One is on July 7th
 - o Register your free seats for Catalyst on Friday 26th!
<https://theunionchurch.com/events>