

LIFE LINKS

Growing Together



(Remember the point is not to get through all the questions, but to facilitate connection between each other and God's word.)

:Life:

What is a tradition you enjoy that is unique to your family?

:Bible:

Paul and Barnabas arrive in Pisidian Antioch a different Antioch than Syrian Antioch (their sending church). They begin their missionary work by attending the local synagogue. The presiding elder asks if they have a message to share. Paul gives a historical sketch and reveals that God's ultimate provision is through Jesus at which point he gives an invitation to follow Jesus. Many are excited and invite him to preach again next week.

On the following sabbath it seems as though the whole city is in attendance. At this point he meets resistance. Paul rebuffs the critics and invited the gentiles to share in God's promises. The response is overwhelming but they are run out of town by their opposition. It seems that many were not interested in a gospel open to outsiders.

In what ways do you struggle with church being open to people who are different than you?

(Deeper question: Do you love the people that God loves?)

The trajectory of scripture shows that the good news about God is always too big to be contained by one people group throughout history. (Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 49:6)
We would agree and be thankful that we are welcomed by God in his new covenant.
How can we extend the same grace to people that seem far from God?

This all makes sense on paper but in actual practice it can prove to be difficult. How can your Life Link practically love those outside of our church congregation? (Our little pantry and Hand 2 Hand are great examples).

Read Scripture:

Hebrews 9:11-14

[11] But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) [12] he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. [13] For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, [14] how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

Our salvation comes at very high price. Jesus gave his life for our forgiveness. This should transform our hearts and minds to ever seek to be more like him through prayer and the reading of scripture. As we become transformed we will be excited to share this good news with others. Our worship should include an openness to those who don't know God.

In what ways do you see yourself needing to be transformed by Christ in this area?

:Application:

How are you looking for opportunities to communicate the love of God to your one?

:Prayer Requests:

