



**Neighborhood Group Notes, Week of 9.10.2023 –
Anchored in Community**

Welcome! Take a few minutes for everyone to share their name, and something enjoyable you did over the summer.

Open in prayer.

Take a minute to silently read the “Our Neighborhood Group” statement on the back of this page. This is a description of what we are aiming for in this ministry. If you have questions about this statement, you can ask them now, or ask the leader(s) privately later.

Building friendships with each other includes sharing our “Jesus story,” the story of how we said “yes” to Him. This week, the leader(s) will share his/her Jesus story, and over the next weeks, everyone will have that opportunity, either with the whole group or in smaller groups. Consider taking 3-5 minutes to share your story along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said “yes” to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Pray around what you have heard in each other’s stories, and for opportunities to share your stories with others who have not yet said “yes” to Jesus. Identify who will share their story next week.

Over the next 8 weeks, we are going to explore together beliefs and practices to keep our lives anchored in Jesus in a world adrift

When you think of the word community what comes to mind?

What are you hoping to get out of being part of this group?

Mark talked about the 3 B’s of Community: *Belonging, Beliefs, and Behavior*. If you had to put these three in order of priority, what order would they be in and why?

Describe a time when you felt like you *belonged* or did not *belong*. What made you feel this way?

When it comes to beliefs Pastor Mark stated not all *beliefs* are on the same level of importance. On the back is a three-tier theology framework by Paul King for your reference.

As you look at the position of *beliefs* in the different tiers do any of their placements surprise you and if so, why?

What types of *behavior* do you think help create or harm a healthy community? Explain.

Read Acts 1:8 and 2:4.

What do you think held the early church community together? How would this apply to you or your church?

Over the next weeks, we will often finish with the question, In what way do I need to be more anchored in Jesus? Does anything come to mind today?

Our Neighborhood Group...

Welcome to our Neighborhood Group! Congratulations on your decision to grow deeper in your relationship with God through this study and the relationships in this group! As a member of this group, you are asked to agree with the other members to make this group a priority by making the following commitments:

- I will make this group a priority by attending each time, keeping up with assignments, and participating openly in group discussion.
- I understand that this group is a ministry of Neighborhood Church, and will be led according to the vision and mission of the church.
- I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs.
- I will explore honestly my next steps for spiritual growth.

Three-Tiered Theology

1st Tier: Essentials/Non-negotiables: “Unity in things essential” (2 Thess 2:15; 1 Cor 15:1-4)

Belief in the three persons of the Trinity
Divinity and humanity of Christ—Incarnation and Virgin Birth
Divinity and personhood of the Holy Spirit
God as Creator and the nature of creation
Saving Work and Substitutionary Atoning Death of Christ
Physical Resurrection of Christ and Ascension
Scripture is verbally inspired and inerrant as originally given
Man’s original creation in the image of God
The fall of man through sin and sinful nature
Lostness of man and need of salvation/new birth through Christ’s atonement
The state of the lost and believers.
Salvation by grace through faith has been provided through Jesus Christ for all people
Imminent, physical and personal, visible Second Coming of Christ

2nd Tier: Alliance Distinctives

Christocentric Fourfold Gospel (“the rallying point”—A.B. Simpson)
Continuism—Christ the same in all ages (Heb 13:8), gifts of the Spirit continue

Theological Foundations: Covenant Theology and Higher Life

Jesus Christ as Savior—The Gospel of Full Salvation

Believer’s baptism by immersion—2nd tier practice with 3rd tier liberty

Jesus Christ as Sanctifier—the sanctifying baptism in the Spirit and progressive work

Jesus Christ as Healer—of the whole person

Jesus Christ as Coming King—premillennial with 3rd tier liberty

3rd Tier: Non-essentials, Open Questions

“Liberty in things non-essential; Love in all things” (Rom 14; Col 3:14-15)

Church government (polity, ordination, roles of women in ministry)

Worship practices (hymns vs modern, Sabbath, foot-washing, musical instruments)

Fasting

Communion

Dedication of children

End-times (tribulation, rapture, interpretation of Daniel and Revelation, etc.)

Expressions or views of sanctification

Varying views of creation (but not Darwinian evolution)

Practices of tongues (but not tongues as THE evidence or anti-tongues)

Calvinism and Arminianism

Water baptism (2nd tier with 3rd tier liberty. Universal practice became baptism of believers by immersion, but not required for membership)

Catholicism vs Protestantism

Views on Israel (such as Zionism and the Anglo-Israel theory)—but not the replacement theory—that the church replaced Israel, or unorthodox British-Israelism

Various views on tongues are permitted except 1) insistence on tongues as the initial evidence of the baptism in the Spirit and 2) tongues are not for the church today.

Regarding dos & don’ts: “operation of a principle rather than application of a rule.”

Modeling a “unity-in-loving-liberty” hermeneutic, The Alliance has allowed for varying viewpoints on the role and meaning of things considered non-essential, secondary, or open questions. The early Alliance was thus as inclusive as Scripture allows and as exclusive as Scripture mandates.

<https://paulkingministries.com/essentials-distinctives-open-questions-3-tier-alliance-hermeneutic-2/>



Neighborhood Group Notes - Week of 9.17.2023
Anchored in God's Word

Getting to know each other: **What is the best or worst piece of advice you have been given?**

Open in prayer.

Over the next weeks, everyone will have the opportunity to share their "Jesus story," either with the whole group or in smaller groups. Consider taking 3-5 minutes to share your story along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said "yes" to Jesus
- How you said "yes" to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said "yes" to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Pray around what you have heard in each other's stories and for opportunities to share your stories with others who have not yet said "yes" to Jesus. Identify who will share their story next week.

Over the next 8 weeks, we are going to explore together beliefs and practices to keep our lives anchored in Jesus in a world adrift.

If someone asked you what the Bible is, how would you explain it and why?

On the back of this sheet is the Alliance Statement of Faith. Is there anything that stands out to you? Explain.

On Sunday, Mark talked about three aspects of being anchored in the Bible: Roots, Revelation and Rule. When it comes to the roots of the Bible, do you think it is important to know the natural or supernatural origins? Why or why not?

Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Explain from these verses your understanding of the supernatural roots of the Bible.

How do the roots of the Bible make a difference in how you relate to it?

Mark also talked about Natural and Special Revelation. What is your understanding of the difference?

Read Romans 1:18-23. When people deny Natural Revelation there is a downward spiral. Share an example of where you have seen a downward spiral because of the denial of God.

Special Revelation reveals how to have salvation through Jesus. Do any verses come to mind? *

Mark talked about the Rule of the Bible, having it as an authority in our lives. Is this easy or hard for you? Why?

How does understanding that the Bible points toward Jesus (John 5:39) help in living under its rule?

Read Matthew 22:37-40. In what way does the great commandment help us to live under the rule of the Bible?

Over the next weeks, we will often finish with the question, "In what way do I need to be more anchored in Jesus?" Does anything come to mind today?

Alliance Statement of Faith on the Bible

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for our salvation. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Pet. 1:20–21; 2 Tim. 3:15–17).

*John 3:16, Romans 6:23, 10:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Resources for Apologetics on the Bible.

Josh McDowell

<https://www.josh.org/resources/apologetics/answering-skeptics/>

George Wallace

<https://coldcasechristianity.com>

Lee Strobel

<https://leestrobel.com>

Rightnowmedia.org under “apologetics” – contact the office for a free subscription office@neighborhoodc.org

<https://truthfaithandreason.com/case-making-101-how-does-the-bible-compare-to-other-ancient-documents/>



Neighborhood Group Notes
Week of 9.24.2023 – Anchored in God

Getting to know each other: **Peaks and puddles. Share a highlight and lowlight from the past week.**

Open in prayer.

Over the next weeks, everyone will have the opportunity to share their “Jesus story,” either with the whole group or in smaller groups. Consider taking 3-5 minutes to share your story along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said “yes” to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Identify who will share their story next week.

How would you describe God?

On the back of this sheet is the Alliance Statement of Faith. Is there anything that stands out to you about God? Explain.

On Sunday Mark talked about the attributes of God. All these attributes are listed on the back. Which attribute is one you find comfort in or is easier to understand? Explain?

Which attribute do you find more difficult? Explain.

If you have a verse that you know communicates an attribute of God, take a moment to share it with the group.

Read 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Luke 3:21-22

Christians believe there is one God who is revealed in three persons. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is found across both the Old and New Testaments. What is your understanding of the Trinity? (There is a diagram on the back to help)

How does a level of understanding of the Trinity anchor our faith?

Scripture talks about God as our Father and Jesus often spoke of the Father. **Read Romans 8:14, Galatians 4:6, James 1:16.**

How does relating to God as a Father help or hinder your faith?

How does seeing God as Father in light of His other attributes give a fuller picture of who God is? (see attributes on the back)

Read Jonah 4:1-2, 2 Peter 3:9

Some people say the God of the Old and New Testament are different. When you look at these two verses how do they show consistency of who God is?

There is much to learn about God and our hope is this will encourage you to explore the nature of God and become more anchored in Him. Pray about ways we can be more anchored in God.

Alliance Statement of Faith on God

God - There is one God (Deut. 6:4), Creator of all things (Rev. 4:11), who is infinitely perfect (Matt. 5:48), existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

Jesus Christ - is the true God and true man (Phil. 2:6–11). He was sent by the Father (John 20:21), conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary (Luke 1:34–38). He died on the cross, the Just for the unjust (1 Pet. 3:18), as a substitutionary sacrifice (Heb. 2:9), and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (Rom. 5:9). He rose from the dead according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3–4). He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest (Heb. 8:1). He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace (Isa. 9:6–7).

The Holy Spirit is a divine person (John 14:16–18), sent to indwell, guide, teach, gift, empower, and bear His fruit in every believer (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 12:4, 11; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22–23). He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:7–11).

Views of God

- Atheism – There is no God (humanism)
- Agnosticism – I don't know if God exists.
- Deism – God made the world but never interrupts its operations with supernatural events.
- Pantheism – “all is god” (Hindu, Buddhist, Scientology, Star Wars)
- Theism – God, who is infinite and personal, created the universe and miraculously intervenes in it. God is both transcendent over the universe and immanent in it. (Judaism, Islam, Christianity)
- *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics,*

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

- Belief in a God who remains distant from people's lives
- People are supposed to be good to each other (i.e., moral)
- The universal purpose of life is being happy and feeling good about oneself
- There are no absolute moral truths
- God allows “good people” into Heaven
- God places very limited demands on people

From the Book Soul Searching

Attributes of God

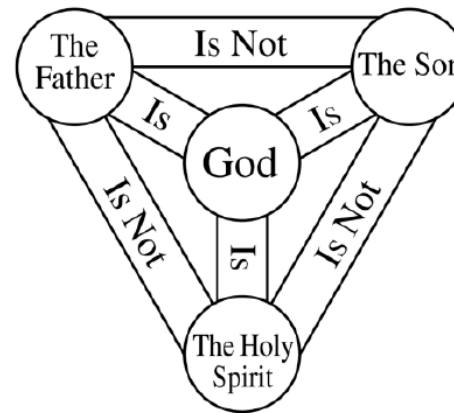
Incommunicable

- Eternal
- Immensity
- Infinite or Omnipresence – is everywhere
- Immutability – does not change
- Self-existent- Independent
- Spirituality
- Unity – monotheism

Communicable

- Omniscience – all-knowing
- Veracity - truthfulness
- Wisdom
- Good
- Holiness – moral purity
- Love
- Omnipotence
- Sovereignty
- Righteousness and Justice

The Trinity





Neighborhood Group Notes
Week of 10.01.2023 – Anchored in the Imago Dei

Getting to know each other: **When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up and why?**

Open in prayer.

Over the next weeks, everyone will have the opportunity to share their “Jesus story,” either with the whole group or in smaller groups. Consider taking 3-5 minutes to share your story along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said “yes” to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Identify who will share their story next week.

This week there are many verses, don't feel like you need to use them all but they are there as a resource if needed.

When you hear the term Imago Dei, made in the image of God, what comes to mind?

What do you think of the following quote from Marc Cortez? The image of God is “a declaration that God intended to create human persons to be the physical means through which he would manifest his own divine presence in the world.”

Mark talked about four areas to stay anchored in the Imago Dei: **Raised Status in the Creation, Rational Minds, Right and Wrong Understanding, and Relationship Capacity.**

If you had to put these four areas in order of importance from 1-4, with 1 being the most important, how would you rate them and why?

Read Genesis 2:26-28.

What do these verses tell us about the *Raised Status* of humanity in creation? How would you relate to what it means to function in this raised position to your own life?

Read Ephesians 4:17-24, Romans 12:1-2 (if you would like to read the larger context, feel free)

What do these verses tell us happens to our *Rational Minds* when we either go toward God or away from God? If you have personal examples of this in people's lives, feel free to share without names...

Read Romans 7:7, Galatians 3:19-22, Romans 8:1-4 Where do we discover right and wrong? Where do we discover freedom from sin? How does this relate back to the Imago Dei?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

In what ways does *Relational Capacity* point towards the Imago Dei?

With everything heard and shared, what role does Jesus play in helping us understanding the Imago Dei?

Pray about ways we can be more anchored in the Imago Dei.

On the back of the sheet are a few resources to help in understanding humanity and identity. Feel free to use it as you see fit.

Alliance Statement of Faith on Humanity

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God: ¹⁶ he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, ¹⁷ are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ The portion of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment; ¹⁹ and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss. ²⁰ (¹⁶Genesis 1:27, ¹⁷Romans 3:23, ¹⁸1 Corinthians 15:20–23, ¹⁹Revelation 21:8, ²⁰Revelation 21:1–4)

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. - Saint Augustine.

What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. - Westminster Short Catechism.

MY RELATIONSHIP

I am reconciled to God - 2 Corinthians 5:18
I'm a child of God - He is my Father - 1 John 3:1,2
I am a saint - Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1
I am Christ's friend - John 15:15
I am a fellow citizen in God's kingdom - Ephesians 2:19
I am born of God - 1 John 4:7
I have been brought near to Christ - Ephesians 2:13
I have been adopted by God - Romans 8:15
I'm to be righteous and holy like God - Ephesians 4:24
I have direct access to God - Ephesians 2:18

MY INHERITANCE

I am a citizen of heaven - Philippians 3:20
I am an heir of God - Romans 8:17
I've been rescued from Satan's domain - Colossians 1:13
I am a joint heir with Christ - Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:7
I am hidden with Christ in God - Colossians 3:3
I am blessed with every spiritual blessing - Ephesians 1:3
I am chosen of God - holy, beloved - Colossians 3:12
I am a child of promise - Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:14
I am a child of light, not darkness - 1 Thessalonians 5:5
I've been given great promises - 2 Peter 1:4
I am a partaker of Christ - Hebrews 3:14

I'm one of God's living stones - 1 Peter 2:5

MY TRANSFORMATION

I'm a member of a royal priesthood - 1 Peter 2:9
I'm redeemed and forgiven - Ephesians 1:6-8
I'm to be a stranger to this world - 1 Peter 2:11
I've been justified - made righteous - Romans 5:1
I'm an enemy of the devil - 1 Peter 5:8
I have eternal life - John 5:24
I died w/Christ to the power of sin - Romans 6:1-6

MY CALLING

I am free from condemnation - Romans 8:1
I am to be salt on the earth - Matthew 5:13
I have received the Spirit of God - 1 Corinthians 2:12
I am to be light in the world - Matthew 5:14
I have been given the mind of Christ - 1 Corinthians 2:16
I'm chosen and appointed to bear fruit - John 15:16
I have been crucified with Christ - Galatians 2:20
I am called to do the works of Christ - John 14:12
I am a new creation - 2 Corinthians 5:17
I am to do what Christ commanded His disciples - Matthew 28:20
I have been made alive with Christ - Ephesians 2:5
I have been given spiritual authority - Luke 10:19
I am God's workmanship - Ephesians 2:10
Signs should accompany my work - Mark 16:17-20
I have received fullness in Christ - Colossians 2:10
I am a minister of a new covenant - 2 Corinthians 3:6
I am a minister of reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:18,19

MY POSITION

I am to be an expression of life in Christ - Colossians 3:4
I am connected to the true vine - John 15:1,5
I am a partaker of a heavenly calling - Hebrews 3:1
I'm a willing slave of righteousness - Romans 6:18,22
I am a temple of God - 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19
I am one spirit with the Lord - 1 Corinthians 6:17
I am a member of Christ's body - 1 Corinthians 12:27



Neighborhood Group Notes
Week of 10.8.2023 – Anchored in Salvation in Jesus

Getting to know each other: **What are the areas of life taking the most energy right now?**

Open in prayer.

Over the next weeks, everyone will have the opportunity to share their “Jesus story,” either with the whole group or in smaller groups. Consider taking 3-5 minutes to share your story along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said “yes” to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Identify who will share their story next week.

This week there are many verses - don't feel like you need to use them all but they are there as a resource if needed.

Followers of Jesus often use the term “saved” when speaking about someone who is a Christian. What do you think being saved means?

Mark talked about three areas of salvation. The how and who of Salvation, what we are saved from, and what we are saved to.

How of Salvation.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:12, Acts 4:12

How are we saved?

When we understand the “how” of salvation, what are some ways to respond?

Why do you think some people find it hard to believe in the Salvation found in Jesus? How would you respond to their doubt, questions, hostility, etc.?

Saved From and Saved To

With the remaining time, discuss ***some*** of the following ideas and verses in how they make salvation in Jesus so amazing.

Saved from sin and separation as an enemy of God to a restored relationship as friend and family of God. Romans 5:6-11, Ephesians 1:5,

Saved from death and Satan to life in God. Ephesians 2:1-7, Colossians 1:21-22, John 10:10

Saved from lost in darkness to found in the light.
Luke 19:10, 1 Peter 2:9

Saved from control by your sinful nature to the Holy Spirit's control.
Romans 8:9, Galatians 5:24

Saved from sickness to health.
Isiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17, James 5:13-16, Acts 4:30

Pray about ways we can be more anchored in salvation in Jesus.

On the back of the sheet is the Alliance Statement of Faith on Salvation and Healing.

Alliance Statement of Faith on Salvation

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all people (1 John 2:2). Those who repent and believe in Him are justified by grace through faith (Rom. 3:21–24), born again of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4–7), delivered from the dominion of darkness, transferred into the Kingdom of God’s Son (Col. 1:13), granted the gift of eternal life, and adopted as the children of God (Rom. 8:14–16; John 1:12).

Alliance Statement of Faith on Healing

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the whole person (Isa. 53:4–5; Matt. 8:16–17). Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures (James 5:13–16) as privileges for the Church in this present age (Acts 4:30).



Neighborhood Group Notes

Week of 10.22.2023 – Anchored in the Four-Fold Gospel

Getting to know each other: When you think about the purpose of life, what comes to mind? (Feel free to keep it light.)

Open in prayer.

Please continue to take 3-5 minutes to have people share their stories along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said “yes” to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Identify who will share their story next week.

As part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, we talk about Jesus as our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King—this is what we call “the Fourfold Gospel,” part of the C&MA’s spiritual DNA.

In week 5, we talked about salvation in Jesus and that we are saved by the grace of God through faith, as revealed in the blood sacrifice of Jesus alone.

We also talked about how we are....

- Saved from sin and separation as an enemy of God to a restored relationship as friend and family of God.
- Saved from death and Satan to life in God.
- Saved from lost in darkness to found in the light.
- Saved from control by your sinful nature to the Holy Spirit’s control.
- Saved from sickness to health.

What is something from the last sessions that has stayed with you and why?

Jesus is our Sanctifier.

Read the Alliance Statement on sanctification on the back of the sheet.
Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Romans 6:1-14, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 10:14.

How would you describe sanctification?

Pastor Mark described both the positional and progressional nature of sanctification. How would you explain the difference?

What would you say the purpose of sanctification is?

Jesus is our Healer.

In the last session, we talked about Jesus as our healer. On the back is the statement from the Alliance on healing. After reading it, is there anything you would like to talk about?

Jesus is our Coming King.

Read the Alliance Statement on the second coming of Jesus.
Read Hebrews 10:37, Luke 21:27, Titus 2:11–14

Is a belief in Jesus as the coming King important to your life? And if so, in what ways?

The Alliance is called a deeper life and missions movement. What is your understanding of what this means?

Read Matthew 24:14. From this verse, it seems like we have a role to play in bringing back the king. What do you see your role as?

When you think of the fourfold Gospel, what area of who Jesus is to you, do you need to become more anchored in? Take a moment to pray together about this.

On the back of the sheet is the Alliance Statement of Faith on Salvation, Sanctification, Healing, and Jesus coming again.

Alliance Statement of Faith on Salvation

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all people (1 John 2:2). Those who repent and believe in Him are justified by grace through faith (Rom. 3:21–24), born again of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4–7), delivered from the dominion of darkness, transferred into the Kingdom of God’s Son (Col. 1:13), granted the gift of eternal life, and adopted as the children of God (Rom. 8:14–16; John 1:12).

Alliance Statement of Faith on Sanctification

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion. (1 Thessalonians 5:23, Acts 1:8, Romans 6:1–14)

Alliance Statement of Faith on Healing

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the whole person (Isa. 53:4–5; Matt. 8:16–17). Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures (James 5:13–16) as privileges for the Church in this present age (Acts 4:30).

Alliance Statement of the Second Coming of Jesus

The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal, visible, and premillennial. This is the believer’s blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service. (Hebrews 10:37, Luke 21:27, Titus 2:11–14)

<https://101.cmalliance.org>



THE ALLIANCE



Neighborhood Group Notes

Week of 10.29.2023 – Anchored in Spiritual Rhythms

Getting to know each other: What is one of your favorite songs and why?

Open in prayer.

Please continue to take 3-5 minutes to have people share their stories along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said “yes” to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

Identify who will share their story next week.

What are activities that you find life-giving, that give you energy? Explain why.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

When you think about rhythms in life, what comes to mind?

Mark said Spiritual rhythms are intentional, repeated practices to form and anchor us in Jesus through all seasons of life.

In following are 10 spiritual practices along with some Scripture verses. Take time to read some of the scriptures and talk about how the different rhythms have the potential to or have formed and anchored you in Jesus

Worship - Life Surrendered - Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:17

Sabbath – A weekly pause to rest and delight in God – Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (two different reasons for the Sabbath and it is for everyone!)

Prayer – Eyes Up - 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Matthew 6:7-13, Ephesians 6:18

Fasting – removing food, or other things to focus on God- Matthew 6:16-18, Isaiah 58:6-12.

Solitude – disconnecting to connect with God – Matthew 14:22-23, Mark 1:35

Scripture – discovering God through the Bible, Hebrews 4:12-13, Psalm 119:105

Community – leaning into Jesus-centered relationships. – Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:25,

Service – Serving others – Matthew 20:25-28

Generosity – giving of our financial resources - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Malachi 3:6-12

Witness – sharing and showing Jesus to those around us Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15

Reminder- these are not meant to be legalistic rules but to draw you into Jesus. Why do you think some are harder to practice than others?

How is doing something challenging healthy for a relationship?

What is one rhythm you would like to try for a period of time and why?

Take time to pray for each other to continue developing spiritual rhythms.

On the back of the sheet are resources to help you develop spiritual rhythms in your life.

Resources

Practicing the WAY

<https://launch.practictheway.org>

Richard Foster

<https://renovare.org>

John Mark Comer

<https://johnmarkcomer.com>

Ruth Haley Barton

<https://www.ruthhaleybarton.com>

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<https://www.richvillodas.com>

Pete Scazero

<https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org>

Crafting a Rule of Life

<https://ruleoflife.com>



Neighborhood Group Notes
Week of 11.5.2023 – Anchored in the Mission of God

Getting to know each other: When you think of an adventure you would like to be a part of, what comes to mind?

Open in prayer.

Please continue to take 3-5 minutes to have people share their stories along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said “yes” to Jesus
- How you said “yes” to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

When you hear the word “mission” or “missions,” what comes to mind?

Mark said the mission of God (Missio Dei) is God sending his Son Jesus, out of love, to bring Kingdom shalom (wholeness) to the world. Humanity participates in this mission by joining God in His work.

Read John 3:16 and Luke 19:10. How do we see the mission/sending nature of God? Why is this important?

Read John 20:21. What do you think this verse means for us in relationship to God’s mission?

Read Ephesians 1:4, Revelation 13:8 and Galatians 4:4-7. God was at work, even before the world began and his timing is perfect. Why is this important to know?

God has through all of history invited people to be a part of his mission. Read the following verses from the Old Testament:

Genesis 9:1, Genesis 12:2-3, Exodus 3:1-12, Isaiah 6:8, Jeremiah 1:7

From these verses, how are people a part of God’s mission?

Read the following verses from the New Testament (feel free to read more of the context):

Luke 10:1-3, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2:17-18, Ephesians 3:6-11, 1 Peter 2:9

What are some observations of how God partners with people?

What is your and God’s role in his mission?

How does or how should God’s desire to partner with you in his mission affect you personally?

Take time to pray for each other in ways we can join the mission of God in your life.