

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Sept 23, 2018



Pastor Temple 8:15, 10:55 Pastor Hall 9:30

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's message, do you accept the freedom and power God gives you?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: When have you been in a situation that required you to trust in God or someone else that pushed you beyond your comfort zone? Why do you think trusting others is difficult?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Proverbs 3:1-7. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

**⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. ⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- The third baptism question (full version) is “Do you **confess Jesus Christ as your Savior**, put your whole **trust in his grace**, and promise to **serve him as your Lord, in union with the church** which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?” Why do you believe the part of the question about confessing Christ as savior comes before the questions about whole trust in His grace and service as our Lord (Romans 10:9)?
- Given the relativistic and individualistic modern culture we live in, how do you respond to missionary Hudson Taylor’s statement that “Christ is either Lord of all or not Lord at all?”
- “Trust,” or “batah” in Proverbs 3:5-6, is more of a continual relational term than “belief.” How do you understand the statement- “trust is never given, it is earned?” Is it true?
- How has the Lord earned our trust?
- What do you believe is meant by the earliest Christian creed of the church, “Jesus is Lord?”
- How might the blue baptism reminder bracelets help us to keep our thoughts and attitudes centered on Jesus being our Lord?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 14: 22-33. Peter and the other disciples in the boat have different responses to Jesus’ walking on water. Who do you more identify with in this story?
- Why did Peter get out of the boat?
- Why did he begin to sink?
- How would you describe Peter’s trust in the Lord from the time of his initial conditional invitation, to his walking on water, to his being rescued by Jesus?
- What or who do you reach out to when you are afraid? Or do you try to make it on your own?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the reflections upon the additional scripture above?
- What other things do we tend to place our trust in over trusting in the Lord?
- How might we rely more on the Lord in our daily lives this week?
- Where might God be leading you to step out of your comfort zone and walk in faith with Him?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- In Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World, Rebecca Manley Pippert writes, “ ...the most effective, the most costly and even perhaps the most biblical kind of evangelism is found in the person or groups who look at the people around them, those with whom their own life naturally intersects, and then begin to cultivate friendships and to love them....” If you are wearing a blue baptism bracelet this week, how would you respond to the witnessing opportunity present if someone asks you about it?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.