

The Story that Makes Sense of Everything
Part 3 of 5
Sunday, May 3rd, 2020
Love Came to Town

PARTICIPANT NOTES

Welcome to part 3 of “The Story that Makes Sense of Everything”. The goal of this series is that we would understand the metanarrative (overarching story) of the Bible. The more we understand His story, the more we are able to make choices and act in ways that align our story with His. This week we’re looking at the Kingdom of God and how this kingdom changes everything for us. God has chosen to show us mercy and has set about to restore all things. Jesus called the location of this healing/restoration/reconciliation the Kingdom of God. We can begin to experience life in the Kingdom of God (which is life with God) right here, right now.

Romans 5:6-8 New International Version (NIV)

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Q - How have you experienced God’s grace at work in your life in ways that you weren’t even looking for it and certainly didn’t deserve?

READ Matthew 5:21-26 & 5:43-48

Q- In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus sets a pretty high bar. How have you understood His teachings in the past and did your understanding change after hearing the sermon?

Mark 1:14-15 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Q- How do you understand God’s presence in the world right now especially during such a difficult time? Are you a person who sees God at work everywhere or do you find your experience to be that he is absent?

Q – What can you do to experience more of God’s presence in your difficulties this week?

As a group, think back to Pete’s sermon. What did Pete share about cultivating an awareness of God’s presence? What ideas can you share with each other? For example, if you find yourself feeling angry, or lonely, or depressed, take a moment to stop and talk with God. Tell Him how you’re feeling. Ask Him to flood your heart with His Spirit. Also, remember to stay connected to one another during the week. If you’re having a bad day, or a difficult moment, let the group know. Share your burdens with each other. They are a lot lighter when you have others to help carry them. As a group, you can help each other experience God’s presence in the coming days, regardless of what they bring.

MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS

Creekside partners with Carmen Bajo Alliance Church in Quito Ecuador.

Ecuador is one of the hardest-hit countries in the Americas with COVID19, and the country has been in physical distancing measures since March.

Pastor Fabian and his wife Grace have been visiting the community to pay staff, take care of administration, and provide supplies for the families of the church. They are also conducting services online via Zoom.

Please pray for the church in Carmen Bajo to remain united and have a strong witness for Jesus.