The Story that Makes Sense of Everything
Part 5 of 5
Sunday, May 17th, 2020
The Hope of Love

PARTICIPANT NOTES

In this final week of "The Story That Makes Sense of Everything", we'll explore another essential part of the metanarrative (over-arching story) of Scripture.   Our focus today is "The Hope of Love".   In today's session, we'll be looking at the power supply we have been given to love like God loves – the Holy Spirit.   God has given us His Spirit to put Jesus inside us, to give us the power to love like He loves and serve like He serves.   Through prayer and dependence on God, we can live a life that is beyond us, transformed by God's Holy Spirit to be like Him. Are you ready? Let's dive in!

Q - Do you remember when you first learned about the Holy Spirit? Was it early or later in your journey of following Jesus?

1 John 4:4
You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because **the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world**.

In this passage John is talking about overcoming "spirits" that would be against Jesus and assuring followers of Jesus that the Spirit who lives in us is greater than the "spirits" in the world.

Q - When have you experienced the Holy Spirit at work in your life?

Can you think of a time when you:
- Were able to love beyond your usual capacity?
- Had joy or peace in the midst of bad circumstances?
- Were able to forgive someone from the Spirit's strength?

Ephesians 5:15-20
Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q - What area of your life or opportunity would you like to make more of?

Q - Talk as a group about your experiences with having a morning routine that includes time with God. What have you found helpful to start your day filled with the Spirit?

IDEAS for your morning routine: Here are a few to consider.

S.O.A.P. – use this acrostic as a an approach to reading and living God's Word.
S - Scripture – take some time each day to read the Bible.
O - Observation – ask, "what am I noticing about who God is, His plan and purpose?"
A - Application – "What is this calling me to think or do?" "How can I live this out?"
P – Prayer – Thank God for his Word.   Ask Him to guide you by His Spirit to live it out.

First 15
Spend the first 15 minutes of your day connecting with God.
5 minutes – read the Bible
5 minutes – worship God
5 minutes – prayer

YouVersion:
Download this Bible app to your phone.   Use the app to read and converse with others about the Bible.

Missions Prayer Requests

Please continue to keep the C Family and Kenya in your prayers:

1. There are increasing numbers of vagrants wandering around the area of their home. Neighbours recently had someone break into their property who wanted food and money. They suspect there will be more social unrest as the results of the curfew and lockdown become more widespread and aggravate the lives of the poor. Pray that God would provide for the needs of the poor as they will suffer the most.
2. Pray for Kenya's political and business leaders to make wise decisions.
3. Pray for Senior Pastor Ngari and the church-planters we work with to continue to effectively minister.
4. Pray that God would provide for the needs of the poor as they will suffer the most.
5. Pray the virus would not spread rapidly through the local population (slums)

Please also pray for the family and colleagues of Joyce Lin, a pilot with Missionary Aviation Fellowship who recently crashed and died.   Joyce was a missionary colleague of the N family, who are part of our Creekside family.

https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/may/missionary-pilot-joyce-lin-died-papua-crash.html