

DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 26: JULY 12 & 15

LEADER INFO:

PLEASE remember to take attendance each week through your email reminders or your church community builder LEAD app.

Our Summer Semester will run from June 4 – August 12. Disciple Groups will then be on break from August 12 until September 3.

SAVE THE DATE! August 4 from 9:00am-12:00pm is our Annual Disciple Group Leader Celebration! We want to honor you and celebrate all that God is doing in our Disciple Groups! Keep a look out for more information to come!

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Encounter Retreats - This year we are adding more Encounter Retreats, a chance to get away from your normal routines and dive deeper into your relationship with Jesus and connect with others.

Go to coe22.com/deepen for more information!

Spiritual Disciplines Encounter – September 21 - September 23

Hunting Encounter – September 23 – September 26

Marriage Encounter B – September 27 – September 30

Women's Encounter B – October 19 – October 21

Golf Encounter – October 19 – October 21

Surf Encounter B – October 22 – October 29

Sporting Clays Encounter – December 8

Share Your Faith - Would you like to be more confident in talking about Jesus and sharing your faith? Get equipped and encouraged to share the love of Christ at our Share Your Faith class. Cost is \$10 and includes breakfast and materials.

Saturday, July 21 // 8:00am-12:30pm at the San Pablo campus

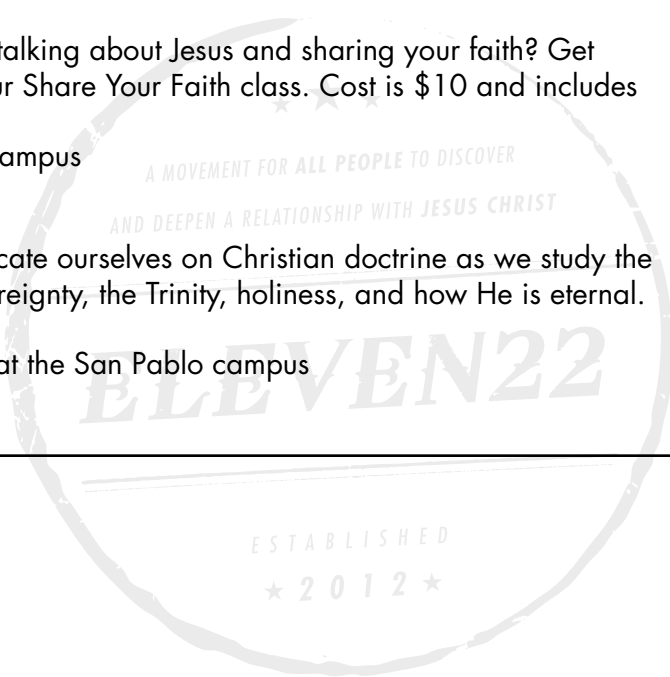
Register at coe22.com/shareyourfaith

Doctrine Classes - For four weeks we will sharpen and educate ourselves on Christian doctrine as we study the attributes of God. We will be covering topics such as sovereignty, the Trinity, holiness, and how He is eternal. Cost is \$30 and includes dinner, childcare and materials.

Friday nights from July 27 through August 17 // 6:00pm at the San Pablo campus

coe22.com/doctrineclasses

TEXTS: ROMANS 12:1-2



THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

During week 26 of our study in Romans, we see Paul urge us to give our all to God. In light of the mercy God has shown us, we should respond in worship and obedience! Just as our bodies are gifts from God, obedience is a gift from God. It's not a "have to", but rather, it's a "get to". To love God is to obey God and in doing so, this cultivates joy in our hearts and lives!

THE POINT: TO BE LOVED BY GOD IS TO BE GIVEN THE REWARD THAT IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD. WE DON'T OBEY TO GET A REWARD—THOUGH THERE WILL BE PLENTY—OBEDIENCE IS THE REWARD.

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read Romans 12:1 and James 1:16-17 out loud.

Paul's language to the Church is strong. He is not making a light suggestion. He isn't offering some moral therapy or path to better you, but rather, he is appealing to his brothers on behalf of their souls... He is urging us to change how we view and treat our bodies and, in turn, offer our bodies to God. In light of the mercy God has lavished upon us, we respond in obedience and worship... We do this by willingly offering our lives to God for His Kingdom and His glory. Since I am no longer living for myself, I should honor God in all that I do and with all parts of who I am. It sounds simple and easy in theory, but the truth is that our sinfulness and pride often whisper lies in the back of our minds, "This is my life, I'll do what I want." The reality, though, is that your body and your life is a gift from God. Likewise, obedience to God is a gift, and both should be used to honor Him.

1. What do these verses reveal about who God is?
(Everything God gives us is a gift, including our lives and our bodies. Gifts are valuable and meaningful to the giver and should be treated as such by the recipient. This shows us that God is kind and merciful, despite our unworthiness. He always provides for His children.)
2. In what ways have you abused or mistreated the gift God has given you of your body?
(This could be physically – drugs, alcohol, excess or absence of food, or mentally – negative thoughts, comparison, refusing to obey His commands [knowingly or unknowingly].)
3. What part of your body, mentally or physically, do you struggle with sacrificing?
(Think of examples from your own life. Share with the group if you feel led.)

Have someone read Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 6:10-12 out loud.

As followers of Christ, we are on a battlefield. Paul tells us not to conform to the world that we are in. The Enemy is seeking to kill, steal, and destroy, and we are his primary target to take out. Paul's directive to the Church isn't to just "not conform", but He tells us that our minds must be transformed as well. This is not something we can do on our own – but we have help, which is the Holy Spirit. Around Eleven22, we often hear the saying, "Identity precedes activity." This means that our identity in Christ comes before changed actions. As His continuous work in my life renews my mind and the way I view the gift He has given me, how I treat my body and my life will follow. I will begin to view myself – physically, mentally, and spiritually – as a living sacrifice and a vessel by which to give God praise. A "living sacrifice" implies that it is ongoing; transformation is also ongoing. Both are progressive and are only able to be completed in Christ.

4. Why is it important for us to know that identity comes before activity?
(God's transforming work changes us from the inside out. Just like renovating a house, it cannot happen overnight, but rather, it happens over time... It takes work, God initiated work. During the sanctification process, He see what we simply cannot. When you see pain, He sees promise. When you see cost, He sees reward. Our sight is very limited, but He sees the whole picture. He has chosen you for His dwelling place and He is renovating it for His glory and for your joy.)
5. How can we be participants in the "renovation process" as God renews our minds and hearts?
(In order to participate in what God is doing in our lives, He must be invited into our lives... We must be intentional about filling our minds and hearts with God! We can do this practically by being saturated in the Word, by participating in a Disciple Group, intentionally spending time in prayer and by attending weekly services.)

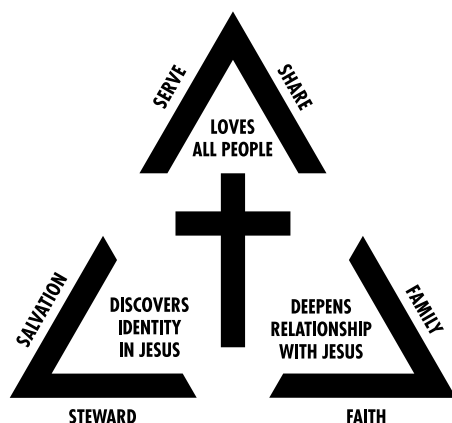
Have someone read Mark 8:22-26 out loud.

In this passage of Scripture, we can clearly see the sovereignty of God in action. This man was blind – he didn't choose that. He was living in Bethsaida – he didn't choose that because you lived where your parents lived. He had to have heard of a healer named Jesus – he couldn't have told himself. This blind man had to have people help him get there. Just like with this blind man, God uses others to help us because we can't fight this fight alone.

6. In this passage of Scripture, Jesus gently took the blind man away from everything that he knew... In the same way, Jesus will take us away from comfort and control to give us joy. How have you seen this happen in your own life?
(Joy is on the other side of control. It feels like Jesus is taking thing away from us, but in reality, He is actually just taking control, regaining our trust, renovating our minds, and taking us from what we know so we can experience fullness in Him.)
7. How have you seen God transform your life over the last 26 weeks as we've studied Romans?
(Transformation takes a sovereign Savior who, by mercy, is willing to restore you. This transformation requires a response of obedience to His leading, which ultimately leads to God's glory and our joy.)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



What is something that God is currently calling you to do, but you have yet to take the step of obedience to see that call come to fruition? This delay could be because of fear, worry, or pride... We'd encourage you to set aside time this week to pray intentionally about what God is calling you to. What is your next step? Is He calling you to lead a Disciple Group? Go on a Mission Trip? Start serving at your home campus? Whatever God is calling you to do next, we want to encourage you to pray about it and then act on it with willful obedience!

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