



THURSDAY 09.30.10

Galatians 2:11-14

In Galatians chapter two we find a section of scripture that at first glance may make us wonder how it ever got into the Bible. Peter and Paul, two of the first heroes of the Christian faith, find themselves at odds over Peter's apprehension in associating with some Gentile Christians. Even for a great leader like Peter, the need remains for associates like Paul who speak a word of truth and challenge into his life.

- Humanity has an uncanny ability to engage in self-deception. How do others help us guard against this? In what way is Paul modeling that for us in this text?
- Ephesians 4 instructs us to always "speak the truth in love." What do you think that means? How do you speak the truth in love when the word you offer might be a challenging one for someone else to hear?



FRIDAY 10.01.10

Matthew 18:15-20

Have you ever wondered how to handle a dispute with someone who has hurt you? In Matthew 18 Jesus provides a process by which you may seek restoration with someone else. The steps outlined by Jesus are not only designed to help bring healing to the person who has been hurt but also to clearly communicate to the "sinner" the damage that has occurred because of his or her wrongdoing.

- According to verse 15, what is the first step in the process of being reconciled to someone who has hurt you? Why would Jesus instruct us to start here?
- This section of teaching which focuses on reconciling differences ends with the reminder of Jesus' presence among those who come together in his name. Why would Jesus want to connect his presence with this process? How have you experienced God even in a period of conflict with others?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Broken*
Message: *Who Are We?*
Scripture: *Ecclesiastes 4:1-12*

Five false lies we believe about God:

1. My issue is bigger than God.
2. God does not understand my issue.
3. God expects me to deal with it.
4. God cannot work miracles.
5. God does not care about my life.

What others bring to our recovery:

1. Perspective _____
2. Wisdom _____
3. Affirmation _____
4. Accountability _____
5. Support _____
6. Spiritual Direction _____

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Introduction

The first two chapters of the Bible record for us the creation stories that had been passed down from generation to generation among the Hebrew people. Like a master painter, on each of the first six days God steps away from the canvas on which he has created in order to “evaluate” the beauty of what has been made that day. Throughout the first chapter we find the refrain “God saw that is was good.”

Within those first two chapters we only find one instance where God says that something is “not good.” Genesis 2:18: “It is not good for the man to be alone.”

God designed us for relationship. While we typically think of that in reference to our relationship with God, it is equally important to emphasize that God created us for relationship with one another. If healing is going to happen in our lives, we need one another. During our readings this week we will look at the important role that others play in our journey of recovery.

God of all creation, thank you for giving me the gift of life. Thank you for creating in me a need for relationship. Help me, God, to have the courage to ask for help, to allow others to participate in the healing that you are doing in my life and to be willing to be a source of hope and encouragement for others as well. AMEN.



TUESDAY 09.28.10

Hebrews 12:19-25

The book of Hebrews is a resource for those wanting to understand in a deeper way the connection between the Old Testament Law and the death and resurrection of Jesus. Just as the High Priest presented a sacrifice to God in the “Most Holy Place” in the ancient temple, the author of Hebrews sees Jesus as the Great High Priest who presents himself as a sacrifice in order for us to be made right with God.

- The actions of Jesus give us confidence to “draw near to God” according to Hebrews. Do you feel that confidence? Why or why not? What part do others play in building and sustaining that confidence?
- In verses 24 and 25 the author lists three things we should be doing for others. What are they? In what ways are you fulfilling each of those three tasks for others in your life?



MONDAY 09.27.10

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The book of Ecclesiastes is a reflection on the “meaningless” pursuits that sometimes dominate our lives. While discussing the pursuits of wealth, power and control, Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes, provides this vivid description of the importance of the commitment that we make to share our lives with others.

- Most scholars interpret the image of the “cord of three strands” from verse 12 to be those relationships in which there is also a shared commitment to God. Do you have a relationship in your life that you would describe as a “cord of three strands”? What sets that relationship apart from others?
- “If one falls down, his friend can help him up.” When was the last time a friend “helped you up” after a fall? If you are able, take a moment today to send that friend a note of thanks for their presence in your life.



WEDNESDAY 09.29.10

I Timothy 4:11-16

I and II Timothy are classified as a part of the “pastoral letters” which are part of the correspondence shared between the Apostle Paul and those for whom he served as a pastor. Timothy, often referred to by Paul as “my true son in the faith,” was one of the recipients of the mentoring that Paul offered to the next generation of Christian leaders who would continue his work.

- In Paul’s second letter to Timothy he describes himself as being “poured out like a drink offering” on behalf of individuals like Timothy. God often pours into our lives through those elders who provide mentoring and wisdom to us. What has God “poured into” your life through the influence of others? If becoming a disciple is about taking on the “character of Christ,” in what component of your own character are others helping you to grow in right now?
