

life groups

NLC Weekly Sermon Study

Week of April 30, 2017
Sermon: Path—When It's All Uphill



NEW LIFE
CHURCH

Schedule

30 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Two Truths and a Dream**, (a variation of “Two Truths and a Lie”). Each person prepares three statements, two true, and one that is not true, yet something they dream was true. In any order, the person shares the three statements to the entire group. The object of the game is to figure out which statement is the dream. The rest of the group votes on each statement, and the person reveals which one is the dream. This interesting spin often leads to unexpected, fascinating results, as people often share touching dreams for their lives.

NOTE: Feel free to use as much or as little of the following study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN PATH Part 2—When It’s All Uphill

- PATH is a series about your daily walk with God, the practical ways to deal with problems, purpose, and people in your life. Today the focus is on when your path gets difficult and seems like it’s all uphill, whether you’re facing a bitter divorce or an intimidating job change, whether you’re overweight and think you’ll never get in shape, or you struggle with addiction, wondering if you’ll ever break this habit.
- Maybe you struggle with carrying a negative belief about yourself or a label that someone else has spoken over you. It may start with “You’ll never,” “You always,” or “You’re just.” Or maybe you think sometimes that Jesus is too weak or uncaring to meet you where you are, or to set you free from false beliefs.

Q1. Challenging circumstances can bring lies to the surface. Is there something you’re currently believing about yourself that isn’t true?

READ PSALM 103:10

Q2. Have you ever had an experience where you were glad that you didn’t get what you deserved? Explain.

TAKE TURNS READING JOHN 16:33 & 1 COR 13:12

Q3. How do these two verses help you when you’re facing a problem that seem insurmountable?

READ HEBREWS 6:18-19

Q4. What are the promise and the oath that this verse refers to? How does that instill confidence and hope in you during tough times?

4 ANCHORS FROM GOD THAT WILL KEEP YOU SAFE

1. I HAVE NO EVIL PLAN FOR YOU.

GEN 1:31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

- God didn’t create evil and suffering; rather, it came from a decision God made to give you freedom, because God’s greatest value is love, and the only way to love is to have the free will not to love. Love must have the option not to love, in order for it to be love.
- The problem is that we have abused free will by choosing to reject God and walk away from him. Pain and suffering are a result of humanity’s choice to be selfish, arrogant, uncaring, and abusive.

READ ROM 3:23

Q5. Since God knew that evil would result because of our choices, why did He still choose to create the world?

2. I CAN CAUSE BAD THINGS TO WORK OUT FOR YOUR GOOD.

TAKE TURNS READING ROM. 8:28, 2 COR. 7:10, & ROM. 5:3-4

- “God whispers to us in our pleasure. He speaks to us in our conscious. But He shouts to us in our pain. Pain is God’s megaphone to wake up a deaf world.”—CS Lewis
- “I would rather be in this wheelchair knowing God than on my feet without Him.”—Joni Eareckson Tada, paralyzed since 1967.

Q6. Describe a time when you faced something difficult or painful that ended up strengthening your character, even making you more Christlike. How did the change happen?

HEBREWS 5:8 “So even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.”

Q7. According to this verse, how did Jesus learn obedience? What does that mean for you?

3. I HAVE A GLORIOUS FUTURE IN STORE FOR YOU.

TAKE TURNS READING 1 COR 2:9 & 2 COR 4:17

Q8. What does it mean, practically speaking, to have an eternal perspective?

4. I AM WAITING TO HELP YOU.

PSA 34:18 “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Q9. How do you move from living a life filled with hurt to a life of hope?

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please refer to your service guide for campus-specific announcements.