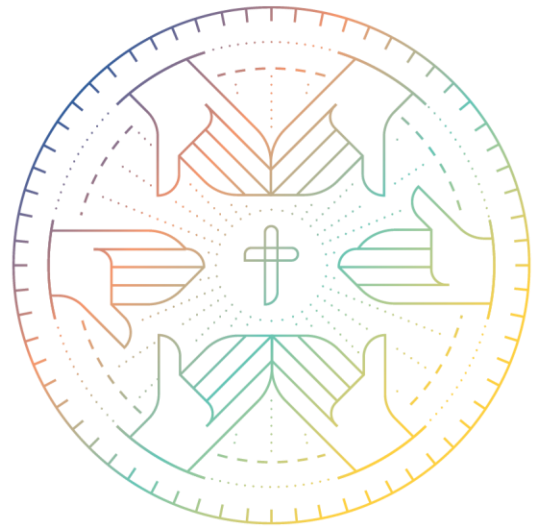


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are continuing *Building Blocks* learning from Peter the importance of actively building our foundation of faith. This week we will focus on the virtues of self-control, steadfastness, and godliness. We will focus on how the building blocks of our spiritual lives help us to become more like Jesus and to stop the leaks of corruption in our lives.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What was a big purchase you have made in your life, and what sacrifices did you make to afford it?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verses: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Peter tells us that we have become partakers of the divine nature of Christ, allowing us to escape the corruption of this world. We are encouraged to supplement our faith with virtue. This week we are focusing on self-control, steadfastness, and godliness.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

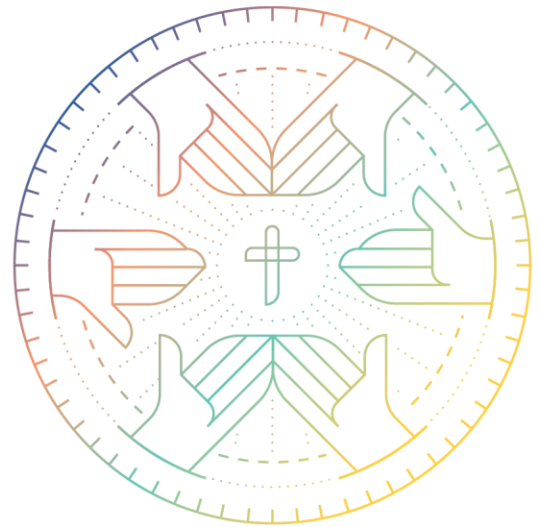
1. **Read 2 Peter 1:3-5, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Galatians 3:13-14, and 1 Peter 2:24. What sticks out to you about the cost that was paid for you by Jesus?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. In 1 Corinthians, we see that we were bought with a price and should honor and glorify God in our bodies. In Galatians 3, Paul tells us that we were redeemed from the law's curse or consequences because Jesus took our place. Finally, in 1 Peter 2, we see that Jesus bore our sins in His body so that we might not be prisoners or corrupt but become like Christ. There was a significant cost that was paid on your behalf. Remembering this reminds us that our lives are not our own but God's. This should be comforting and motivate us to pursue lives of holiness.]

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2. Read 2 Peter 2:6, Proverbs 25:28, and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. The two main parts of self-control for followers of Jesus are restraining emotions and ruling over our physical desires. Of these two parts, which one sticks out to you the most and why?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. We typically think of self-control as fixing our actions and behaviors, but it goes much deeper. Our emotions drive our thoughts which lead to behaviors and actions. Athletes choose to say no to things and yes to other things to further their end goal of competing at their best. This same mindset is how we should look at self-control. Because of the price paid for our freedom, we should choose to honor God through our emotions and actions. What decision do you need to make today to begin practicing self-control in your life?]

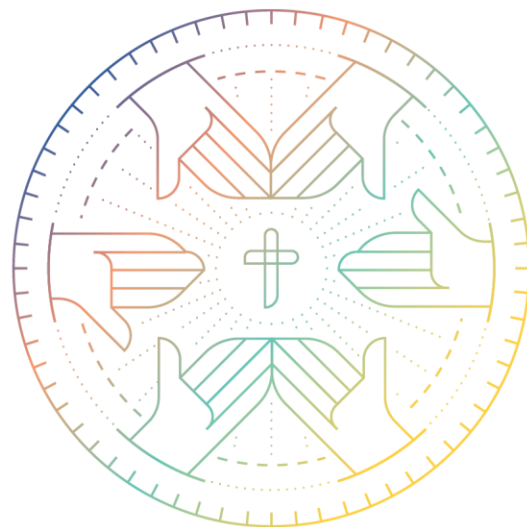
3. Read 2 Peter 2:6, Colossians 1:19-23, and 1 Corinthians 15:58. Steadfastness is defined as being firmly fixed and not subject to change or being firm in belief and determination. What could steadfastness look like in your life?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Steadfastness is patience or endurance in doing what is right. In Colossians, we see it is stability in the hope of the gospel. Though our circumstances may change, our hope in the Gospel allows us to remain stable. 1 Corinthians 15 uses the word immovable and describes steadfastness as doing the work of the Lord. In your life, steadfastness could look like going to God in prayer with every situation, both good and bad. It looks like having the courage to move to what is right regardless of what we know will happen. It is having confidence in our future over the emotions of our present. I may not feel loved at this moment but I know I serve a God who loves me and is faithful to love me regardless of how I feel.]

Group Life.

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APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read 1 Timothy 4:8, 1 Corinthians 10:31, and 1 Peter 1:15-16. Godliness is reverent respect and a practical awareness of God in every aspect of our lives. What areas of your life do you need to invite God into?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Godliness is defined as a proper response to the things of God, which produces obedience and righteous living. (Gotquestions.org) When thinking about godliness we need to be thinking in a holistic manner. How can you invite God into your friendships, workplace, free time, etc.? Maybe you want to invite God into your finances by looking at your budget and examining where your money goes then praying for God to give you direction on how to use your money to glorify Him.]

2. **Read 2 Peter 1:8-9, Matthew 13:22, and 1 Thessalonians 3:13-15. Peter tells us what happens when we do not grow in these virtues. After spending time looking at this week's passage what is your main takeaway?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Peter warns us that we are to grow in these virtues or we will become ineffective and unfruitful unable to properly be the hands and feet of Jesus in a suffering world. With this in mind, it is important that we begin incorporating these virtues in tangible ways so that may be effective and fruitful. Have your group practically layout how they want to grow in self-control, steadfastness, or godliness, and then follow up as a group the next time you meet.]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the great promises that you have given us so that we may become partakers of your divine nature. May we make every effort to grow in self-control, steadfastness, and godliness so that we may be effective and fruitful in growing to become more like you. We are humbled by the heavy cost of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross and are thankful for the new life we can now live in. We pray all these things in Your wonderful name. Amen.