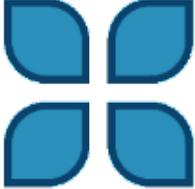


the church at Severn Run



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Romans 5:1-11; Romans 3:10

We are all in the same boat; we are sinners...pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth to name a few. We need to be honest with ourselves as no one is righteous. Also no one has the right to judge others or themselves. The good news is we can be justified; in Christ we are declared to be right. We are not right. We are *declared* to be right. Society tells us that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you *believe*. Jesus tells us we must fully trust ourselves to him and have *faith*. Faith is a choice. Faith is a change agent, a game changer and it is what moves us from the lose column to the win column. Even so, we struggle with doubt. We may even have a doubting thought process that snowballs us into unlikely nightmares. Instead focus on God's promises and have faith. A "faithing" thought process can bring us comfort and assurances from God as we gather evidence to support our belief. This will move us to have confidence and fully believe God statements.

Pray

Dear Jesus, we all have a sin problem and all of our garbage stinks the same. We know it matters what we believe and we believe in you. You justify us and allow us to be in relationship with you and God. Your word shows us how much you value faith. When we doubt your promises give us your assurances though faith.

Getting Started

- What does our society and the media tell us we should have faith in and why.
- Tell about a time that your doubt snowballed into a totally unlikely scenario.

Digging Deeper

1. If a worship service started with introductions such as "Hi, my name is _____ and I am a sinner. My last sin was _____." would you attend that service? Why or why not?
2. Romans 3:10 says, "No one is righteous - not even one." When you hear this, what first thought comes to mind? Talk about why Paul added this into his letter to the Romans.
3. Are all sins the same? Compare and contrast a murder to a "little white lie".
4. Put in your own words what being justified through Christ means to you. How would you explain it to someone else?
5. Jesus tells several stories about faith (see Matthew 2:5-13, Mark 12:41-44, Mark 7:24-30) How important is having faith in Jesus and why?
6. It seems faith isn't so very important to the modern Christian. Do you agree? Explain your answer.
7. In what ways can having faith affect our lives on a day-to-day to basis? (Think of this as "faithing" instead of doubting.)

Living Jesus

Believing in facts is often easy and seems logical. Having faith is a choice, one we make every day. It's a challenge for the taking. Do the homework. Be intentional. Look at the meaning of Emmanuel, just one of many names for Jesus. It is defined as "God with us". Do you believe this? Examine the evidence. Several times a day, repeat out loud, "God is with me and I am with God." If the evidence and the activity does not convince you this week, seek out someone at Severn Run to help you. Talk it through and have faith.