Awaken Tijuana - Pray Serve Give

Our event in Tijuana is coming up so quickly and there is still so much to do! Here are some opportunities:

Our priority is always to pray - we have several prayer meetings each week in person. Plan to attend one of them. Also we will begin a 40 days prayer and fasting the first week of October and next week we will be asking everyone to make a commitment to that effort.

Blessing Bags - October 1 Packing Party 10 am in Worship Center Lobby

Mission Trip - Go and serve! Be part of the event! Trip closes Sept 30 don't miss your opportunity to have your life changes as you minister to others!





ENCOUNTERJESUS

Week 4 | Come and Image Bear | John 1:35-51

JESUS DIDN'T SAY ADMIRE ME, HE SAID FOLLOW ME.

It is the tendency of every aging generation to be critical and even cynical of the younger generations. The following assumption isn't scientific, but I have a feeling that statements like, "they don't work hard like we did," or "what's wrong with this generation," or "this generation is lost," are recycled over and over. How quickly do we forget that the criticisms we levy against the younger generations were the same being levied against our own? In saying that, I simply mean that it's difficult to deny that as we get older, we see our younger years through rose-colored lenses, forgetting that many of the attributes we dislike in the younger generations were just as prevalent in our own. Now don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying that times haven't changed, or that social pressures are the same today as when we were growing up, or that generations aren't shaped by external influences. But what I am saying, and this is the key, is that God doesn't change. His power to change generations hasn't changed, and His purpose for every generation hasn't changed. We had better see that clearly, or we will never celebrate in all generations what matters most to the Father, and that is our genuine love-relationship with Him and fulfilling His purpose for our lives to live as His image bearers.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Pray for all the generations represented in the church. Pray for a united heart to love God, to live as image bearers, and to celebrate the unique qualities of each generation.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. In what ways do you think the world gets it wrong when it comes to discovering purpose for life?

Think of some of the ways the world influences people in the wrong direction. Do you see any of those influences directing you in your own life and your own pursuit for purpose? Based on this teaching, would you say that you are living God's purpose for your life? Explain why or why not and discuss as a group.

ONE GENERATION SHALL COMMEND YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER AND SHALL DECLARE YOUR MIGHTY ACTS.

PSALM 145:4

2. It was a personal and powerful experience for Nathaniel to discover Christ's intimate knowledge of him. It clearly had an impact on Nathaniel, who was a little more than skeptical of this Rabbi from Nazareth.

How do the loving omniscience and total acceptance of Christ for you, impact the way you perceive yourself? How can the acceptance of Christ bring peace to a troubled heart or someone battling with negative self-thoughts or even self-harm?

JESUS KNOWS US BETTER THAN WE KNOW OURSELVES. WHAT BETTER PLACE TO BE THAN WITH THE ONE WHO LOVES AND ACCEPTS US.

3. Jesus genuinely brings a new beginning to the soul that trusts Him.

Spend time encouraging one another with examples of how you received a new beginning when you trusted in Christ.

PEOPLE TRY TO HIDE FROM THEIR PAST BUT TRUE FREEDOM COMES WHEN YOU TRUST IN JESUS.

4. How is the statement "follow me" connected to bearing God's image? How is image bearing for God our true purpose and how can we live that purpose out in our everyday lives? Pastor Derek mentioned the term incarnational which means that through Jesus's incarnation he embodied the Father in human form. But we are now called to do the same by taking the theory and doctrine behind our faith and apply it in practical ways. Like the term "what would Jesus do?" How do you bring the Kingdom of Heaven incarnationally into your sphere of influence?



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NKJV)

Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, incarnationally bring the Kingdom of Heaven into your sphere of influence in one new concrete way. Focus on bearing the image of the Father to Christian and non-Christians alike, praying that the Father would reveal Himself to both.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear about the steps you took to live out God's purpose and how it brought real fulfillment to your soul.