

NOT ALONE

Will I Ever Not Need This? (Romans 7:14-21,24,8:1-2,15)

Ice Breaker: What was the best Halloween costume you've ever worn, seen, or experienced?

Week 5 - Discussion Guide

Addiction. It's something people don't like to talk about, but it affects most of us in ways big and small. Brian spoke about the science and psychology of addiction, as well as God's power to raise us out of it. For some, this will hit a bit too close to home. For others, not so much. During tonight's discussion, be sensitive to that as you are open to learning, sharing, and bearing witness to one another's stories.

Addictions

1. What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
2. How do you identify with this Romans 7 passage?
3. How have you dealt with addiction in your own life or in the lives of people around you?
4. Where does addiction come from? What is it that causes our addictions?

How Do We Get There? Read Romans 8:18-25.

While we can know that God has come and released us from the things that hold us from Him, we might (will) continue in addictive patterns that replace Him with something else that we think will fulfill us.

1. What are some things you continue to put your hope in instead of Christ?
2. In thinking about the sermon - do you feel like you are living in Romans 7 or in Romans 8? Out of control or in God's grace?
3. Sunday's message stated that "we are made to give our lives to something" – a truth that recovery teaches, and that Jesus taught of himself (ie, we're made to give our lives to him). What 'addiction' gets in your way of doing that?
4. Have you ever felt like it was harder to admit to addictions because of your faith?
5. How can the Church/Christians hurt those dealing with addictions? How can it help?
6. How can we help each other identify and work through our addictions (big or small)?

Abiding in Jesus. Read John 15:1-11.

Jesus describes himself as the vine and us as his branches. We are meant to "abide" in him: to be attached to him, to rely on him, to be dependent on him, to be fed and nurtured by him. When we are able to "abide" in him like this, we'll experience fruit in our lives: abundant life, joy made complete. When we "abide" in other things, we wither and die.

1. What are some other things that we "abide" in? To what else do we become "attached" to find fulfillment and life? (think: TV, our phones, exercising, eating, shopping, success, etc.)
 2. Where have you seen/experienced this sort of withering and dying?
 3. How are these things like/unlike traditional addictions?
 4. Underneath the surface, why do you think you "abide" in these things to find fulfillment and life? (To escape? To run/hide? To cover up? To prove yourself? To forget?)
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Love Where You Live

Spend some time this week considering who you could share the good news with.