

Bethel Church Community Groups :: Week of 12/4/16

Mark 1.1-15

1. Check in question – go around and have each person share 1 thing they’re looking forward to about the Christmas season (good way to get to know people, and maybe to steal some ideas!)
2. [CONTENT] As a group read Mark 1.1-15 together
 - a. Put into your own words what you believe to be the main point of the text (use specific verses to back up your answer).
 - b. Based on what we see John say and do in these verses – what does it mean to “prepare the way of the Lord?”
 - i. Why do you think this is important?
3. [DISCUSSION] As a group chip away at coming to a good definition of “repentance”
4. [CONTENT] Now read each of the following passages together and discuss after each one what you learn about the nature of repentance in each.
 - a. Matthew 3.4-10
 - b. Acts 3.19-20
 - c. Ezekiel 18.21-23
 - d. Luke 13.1-9
 - e. Acts 8.18-23
5. [DISCUSSION] As we look to “prepare ourselves” for Christmas – what does it look like for us to keep “repentance” at the center of our lives?
6. [CONTENT] Now as a group do some deeper digging into the life of John the Baptist by reading John 3.26-30
 - a. What do you learn about God here?
 - b. What do you learn about man?
7. [DISCUSSION] What does it mean for us today to “receive what is given us from heaven?”
8. [DISCUSSION] What does it mean for us today to live by John’s code “he must increase, I must decrease?”
9. [APPLICATION] In what ways can the group be praying for you to prepare your heart for Christmas as it arrives this year?
10. Pray for one another before you go.