

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

April 16th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. What change in technology are you most thankful for since you were a kid?

Bible Study Questions

1. Why do you think that insecurity is so common in America? What kind of experiences have you seen that breed insecurity?
2. When was a time or situation in your life that you felt insecure? How did you work through that?
3. Our culture loves to emphasize positive self esteem. What is good about this movement? Why is positive self esteem messages from prominent celebrities ultimately empty? How can our cultures positive self esteem movement be harmful?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
 - What does Paul say about his own weakness?
 - Why is recognizing our weakness important?
 - Why is Paul “proud” of his weakness? What does God do?
 - How does this impact the way that we deal with insecurities?
5. Paul didn’t believe that the world needed a more impressive Paul...it needed more of Jesus.
 - Why is that true for us today?
 - How did allowing God’s power to work through his weakness give the world more Jesus?
6. Read Galatians 1:10
 - How does Paul deal with disappointing people?
 - What does this verse tell you about Paul’s identity?
 - How does having an identity based on the Christ impact our insecurity?

7. I am attaching a page that lists a number of things that Bible says about our identity. Read through this list.
 - What here is most impactful to you?
 - How do claiming these truths help remove the static of ensecurity?

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Static: Insecure

In technology, static is anything that interferes...whether that is the picture on a television set or the sound on the radio. God's desire is for us to have life to the fullest, and that is to be found through him. Static though manifests itself in things in your life that interfere in your ability to live life and commune with God. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at the static of insecurity, fear, Discouragement, and accusations.

- I. **Insecurity is lack of confidence and self doubt:** It can show up in many places. It can cause one to deal with jealousy both in work and in relationships. It can prompt us to make poor choices in an attempt to prove ourselves. It can prevent us from trusting others or even engaging in meaningful relationships. In our walk with God, it prompts to look at all the things that are wrong in our lives and miss God's blessing. It even impacts Godly people such as David (Psalms 30:6-7)
- II. **The Problem with insecurity**
 - a. **It is self centered, causing us to shift our focus from the work and words of God to our own inabilities:** Insecurity always makes us question what is wrong with us.
 - b. **Insecurity grants others and events the power to shape who we are and who we trust:** Many people allow their self confidence to rise and fall based on either what they accomplish or what others say about them. This places the power of one's self worth in the hands of other sinful people.
- III. **The Answer**
 - a. **Recognize our own insufficiency:** Our culture emphasizes positive self esteem. One should feel good because some celebrity that they have never met tells them in a song that they have value. Yet again, this is putting our worth in the hands of a sinful human being. The truth is that we weak beings with limitations. We accomplish very little in our own power. (2 Corinthians 12:9-11).
 - b. **Trust in God's power to work in our weakness:** In 2 Corinthians 12, we discover that weakness is a good thing because God is full of power. When we surrender our weakness to God, then he is able to fill us with his Spirit and work his power through us. In doing so, God because the foundation for our security.
 - c. **Know and claim your identity in Christ:** In Galatians 1:10, Paul is dealing with a number of Christians criticizing

him because of his lack of charisma. Paul responds by saying that he isn't trying to please them. His goal is to serve God because he is a servant of Christ. Paul has rooted his identity in Christ. He knows that his value is not placed on what others say, but in his being a beloved child of God.

Conclusion

Most of us experience insecurity in one way or another. But God has never intended us to live that way. That is why our walk with God is so important. It only with him that we can build a secure foundation on his work and what he says over us. It is only by his sacrifice on the cross, that we can develop a security that is based on our position as his beloved children.