



WEEK 13 - THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE

ICEBREAKER - McManus shared an analogy about a father buying a car for his son or daughter. Share with your group about the first car (or grown-up gift/life tool) you owned/bought and how the increased responsibility made you feel.

Read Galatians 4:1-7 | (pg 166, bottom)

- Paul compares being immature or underage to being a slave. How does he compare and differentiate between being a child and being a slave? What are similarities and differences that you see between childishness and slavery?
- **Hebrews 5:12-13 and 1 Peter 2:2** talk about infants, children, and the eating of solid food or milk. These metaphors are beautiful examples of progression. While milk is sufficient and even good for a baby, it shouldn't be the only sustenance for the life of a human. Similarly, we are to grow up as followers of Jesus, maturing in our theology, our obedience, and deepening in our faith. How do such analogies of maturation bring conviction or motivation in your life? In what ways have you been "living on milk," "living as a slave," or "living as a child?"
- When have you "held God up" because you "refused to grow-up?" What has that looked like in your life? What responsibilities do you think God is patiently waiting to give to you after you've decided to grow?

"You've mistaken God's pleasure for his patience."

"You should be far more concerned about who you're receiving from than who you're giving to."

"We're drawn to the spectacular because we resist the substantial. We're drawn to the miraculous because we don't want to pay the price for maturity."

"Some of us are still living on everyone else's maturity."

"I get tired of people who don't give, giving their opinions."

- After reading the above quotes from Erwin McManus' message as a group, share about which one(s) most convicted or resonated with you.
- What is a key area that God is convicting you to mature in your faith? How will you actualize his promise to you in this conviction?



QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING (pgs 369-407)

WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
2. *What questions did you have?*
3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
5. *What did you learn about loving others?*

Be Holy | (p. 372)

- The theological word denoting holiness is sanctification. Scholars have approached sanctification in a myriad of ways, some optimistically believing that we can be “made perfect” through God’s grace here and now, and others believing that we can never actually be holy or sanctified here on earth, because we will always sin in word, thought, and deed.
- Do you believe that holiness here on earth is attainable? If so, how? If not, how do you account for God calling us to live holy? Would He ask us to be holy if He didn’t give us a way to actualize such a command?
- How is “being holy” different than “following the rules”? (Colossians 2:20 through 3:5)

Suffering as Blessing | (p. 374-376)

- Peter writes to a church that is undergoing immense persecution under the rule of Nero. It then makes sense that he would focus so much on the blessing found in suffering and how Jesus suffered similarly.
- Can pain and suffering be used by God to discipline us because he loves us? If we submit to the experience of suffering, will it bring about God’s character in us?

Faith and following God

means I **won't** suffer <—————|—————>

Faith and following God

means I **will** suffer

- Looking at the spectrum above, place yourself somewhere on the line. How does your perspective on suffering shape your perception of God and how He will interact with you?
- I often hear people question the goodness and love of God when bad things happen to them. Since Scripture is replete with statements of how we *will* inevitably suffer, why do you think we are so easy to believe that something is wrong with God or us if we are suffering?