

DESCENDING INTO GREATNESS

“What a wonderful World”

1. Review last week’s prayer requests and update each other
2. Review the Big Idea: What did you hear this morning?

God has a plan for our lives and our world. Ultimately, that is why God sent His Son Jesus. It is only through a relationship with Jesus that we can truly experience God’s redemptive plan for our lives. And it’s only through a relationship with Jesus that we can get our marching orders to participate in God’s redemptive plan for the world. Through the forgiveness and life change that is available in Jesus God is pushing back the darkness and reclaiming the world for good. The amazing part is that He asks us to join with Him and participate in what He is doing in the world!

GOD IS RECLAIMING THE WORLD FOR GOOD THROUGH...

1. JESUS’ HOPE-GIVING TRUTH

“They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.”

Mark 1:21-22 [NIV]

- ***Why do we find it difficult to submit all our lives to God’s plan for it? What area of your life is the most difficult for you to submit?***
- ***What is the hardest part for me in sharing the truth about Jesus with other people?***

2. JESUS’ JOY-GIVING FREEDOM

“Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!’ ‘Be quiet!’ said Jesus sternly. ‘Come out of him!’ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.”

Mark 1:23-26 [NIV]

- ***In what ways have you witnessed or personally experienced injustice or oppression in your life?***
- ***In what ways can we be involved in fighting against injustice and oppression?***

3. JESUS' LIFE-GIVING WHOLENESS

“As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.”

Mark 1:29-31 [NIV]

- ***How has Jesus brought wholeness in your life? (physically, emotionally, relationally, financially, or socially?)***
- ***How is God calling you to participate in bringing wholeness to other peoples lives?***

‘Rubber meets the road’

- ***Think back on the list of ministries our church is involved with in the area of social justice and extension ministry. What is one way that our life team could participate in – even if it’s only once! Make some plans about how and when we will make this happen.***

HOW WILL GOD PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS AND RECLAIM OUR WORLD FOR GOOD?

THIS WILL BE A WONDERFUL WORLD AS GOD USES CHANGED PEOPLE TO CHANGE PEOPLE.