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Small Group Homework

For the week of: October 21, 2017

Speaker: Pastor Tim Beal

"My Faith is Personal"

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are some of the weirdest Christian phrases you have ever heard?
2. Not only are some of the things Christians say weird or dumb, some of things we believe in the Bible seem unbelievable or simply outlandish as well. What are three Biblical events that would be hard to believe if you are not a Christian?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Verse 17 is a cornerstone of Christian belief. Tim gave some great insight into what this means to the believer. In your own words, unpack what this verse means to your own faith and the world. If this verse is new to you, what are its possible implications to you and the world?
2. Verses 18-19 tell us that God has "reconciled" us (those who believe) to himself. To be reconciled means to be made whole or new. It is a change in relationship to God. If you are a follower of Jesus you have been reconciled. What has this change looked like to those around you in your

life? Do the people around you know that you're now different than you once were? Explain.

3. In verse 20 we are told that we are "Christ's ambassadors." What does this mean and what are we commanded to do with this? Tim stated that this is God's plan A and that there is no plan B.
4. Tim stated that our faith is very personal but it was never meant to be kept private. In all four gospels we see this guy named Joseph (of Arimathia) Matt 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56 and John 19:38-42. In John 19:38 it says he kept his faith a secret because he feared the Jews. Yet when it was time to go public he went big.

What fears do you have that keep you from taking that next step of faith?

If you were to take the next steps of faith what three things would they be (in order)?

5. Read Isaiah 53:9. Because of Joseph's faith, Isaiah's prophecy written 700 years before Jesus, would be fulfilled. Like Joseph, we are Christ's ambassadors and eternity weighs in the balance of our family, friends and neighbors.

What are three steps we can take before the end of this year to be Christ's ambassadors to those around us?

TAKING IT HOME

Tim challenged us to take that next step of faith. Before your group, explain what that next step of faith will be?

Prayer Requests:

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