# MARCHING ONLOW ONLOW

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18–20



When you think about talking about Jesus with someone who doesn't follow Jesus, how does that make you feel?

Do you think you should share your faith? Why?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:1–6.** If you are a follower of Jesus, Paul says God has chosen to put his light in your heart. How does that make you feel? What does it make you think?

# DAY TWO :: What does God say?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:7.** The "treasure" is the truth about Jesus and the "jars of clay" are people who follow Jesus. Why do you think God uses this metaphor? What is it trying to communicate?

God shows us in this verse that sharing the good news (gospel) about Jesus is not about us. It's the treasure inside of us that is the amazing thing and God has chosen to put His "treasure" in ordinary people. Does this change the way you look at yourself? Does this change the way you look at evangelism? How?

# **DAY THREE :: What now?**

If you are a follower of Jesus, then God has placed a priceless treasure inside of you. However, He doesn't want you to keep it to yourself. He wants you to share it with others. That is a huge privilege and responsibility. Spend some time thanking God for placing his treasure, the good news about Jesus, inside of you and asking Him who He might want you to share His treasure with.

# **MARCHING ORDERS :: Week 18**

# **TEACHING**::



The word evangelism comes from **the greek word "ευαγγέλιον"** (pronounced u-an-gele-on) which is translated **\_\_Good News**\_\_\_\_\_. Today we are going to be talking about this concept of evangelism by asking the following three questions.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Did you know
that there are
7.13 billion
people in the
world and 2.91
billion of them
have never
heard the good
news of the

# Why Share The Gospel?

**Read Matthew 28:18–20.** This is one of the last recorded things that Jesus said before He left. What does he expect his disciples to do when he's gone?

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:13-15.

What is it that controls Paul as he shares his faith?

### What Do I Share?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:5.** What is it that Paul says we are supposed to proclaim?



### **How Do I Share the Gospel?**

In 2 Corinthians 6, Paul describes his actions as an evangelist.

**Read 2 Corinthians 6:3.** Paul says he makes sure to not put any obstacles between people and Jesus. What does he mean by that?

**Read 2 Corinthians 6:4–10.** In this passage Paul describes what an evangelist looks like. Make a list of the qualities he talks about.

# **DISCUSSION**::

If someone were to ask you to tell them the Gospel, what would you say?

Have you ever shared the gospel with someone before? If so, what was the experience like?

In Matthew 28 Jesus tells his disciples to go and teach others about Him. How does understanding that this is a command and not a suggestion change how you live?

As a group, make a list of people you each feel called to share the Gospel with and then spens some time praying for them.



# CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CARRON OF THE STATE OF THE STATE

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18–20



Richard Foster says, "We yearn (or long) for prayer and hide from prayer." What do you think he means when he says this?

What do you yearn for in prayer? Or what things make you to want to pray?

What are some things that make you want to hide from prayer? Why do you think you avoid going to God with some things?

What are some questions you might have about prayer as we talk about it this week?

Try to spend five minutes today praying. Avoid using clichés or praying mindlessly and instead talk with God about your life. He wants to hear about the good, bad, and ugly things in your life.

# DAY TWO :: What does God say?

**Read Matthew 6:9–13.** What are some things you notice about the way Jesus teaches us to pray? Who does Jesus address his prayer to?

How does viewing God as a loving father impact the way we might pray?

Rewrite Jesus' prayer in your own words. Spend time thinking about each line and pray those things to God.

# DAY THREE :: What now?

Prayer is simply talking to God and the communication goes both ways. Not only do we talk to God, but also God talks to us like a loving Father. In order to hear God speak though we need to be silent.

**Read Psalm 46:10 and Isaiah 40:31**. Prayer also involves sitting and waiting for the Lord to respond.

Spend some time praying and telling God what's on your heart. Then spend five or ten minutes just listening to God's voice. Write down things that come to mind or anything you feel like God might be saying to you.

# **CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FATHER::** Week 19

# **TEACHING**::

Below is a list of things you may find around your home and the warning labels that are found on each item. Some of these warnings are very strange and obvious.

| Package of Peanuts: <b>Contains peanuts</b>  |
|--|
| Hair Dryer: <b>Do not use while sleeping</b> |
| Microwave Oven:Do not use to dry pets        |
|  |

The way we view and treat prayer can be very similar to the way we view instructions. We know that God tells us to pray and we've heard from others that prayer is important, yet we have become numb to the important role that prayer plays in each of our lives. And yet a Christian who has no prayer life is missing a key part of what it means to walk with Jesus.

| Prayer is how we <b>_communicate</b> | with God. It requ | iires <b>speaking_</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| andlistening                         |                   |                        |

### **Different Ways To Pray**

**Read Philippians 4:6–7.** What is supplication?

### Asking for things/ requests

How can we be thankful in prayer?

Based on this verse do you think God wants to hear your requests?

# Read Colossians 4:2-4 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. Based on these verses, what are we told to do? Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. According to Paul who can we pray for? What things should we pray for them? **Read James 5:13–18.** James encourages us to pray as a \_\_\_community\_\_\_\_\_and to pray for \_\_healing\_\_\_





### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

with God, we ways. We even print our prayers.



# **DISCUSSION**::

As a group spend time going through the following prayer exercise. Pray aloud together for your individual responses.

**Adoration** 

Confession

**Thanksgiving** 

# **Supplication**

When you are finished, if anyone has additional prayer needs take time to pray over them



# 

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7



Nowadays when you hear the word "worship" most of us automatically think of singing or a band that is leading us in songs at church. The problem is that worship is about so much more than just that time. This week we will look at the idea of worship.

What do you think it means to worship something? Look up what it means in a dictionary and write it down.

As you look around the world, what things are worshiped? It could be sports teams, bands, food, etc. Why are those things worshiped?

Do you think our worship should be confined to just when we are at church?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5. How does this verse give us a picture of what a life of worship looks like?

# DAY TWO :: What does God say?

The word worship means to "ascribe honor to something or to give reverence to something sacred."

**Read Romans 12:1–2.** What do you think it means to offer our lives as a living sacrifice? How does that show honor to God?

Did you know that everyone worships something? What differentiates you as a Christian is not that you worship someone, but is what or, more so, who you worship. What things besides God are you tempted to worship in your life?

If someone looked at your life, could they tell who you worship?

### **DAY THREE :: What now?**

We talked a little about whom we worship, but we also need to ask the big "why" question. Why do you choose to worship God?

Read Psalms 110:1-5 and 66. As you read, underline some of the reasons it gives to worship God.

What are a few things about God that make you want to give him honor and reverence?

# **EVERYONE WORSHIPS:** Week 20 **TEACHING** ::

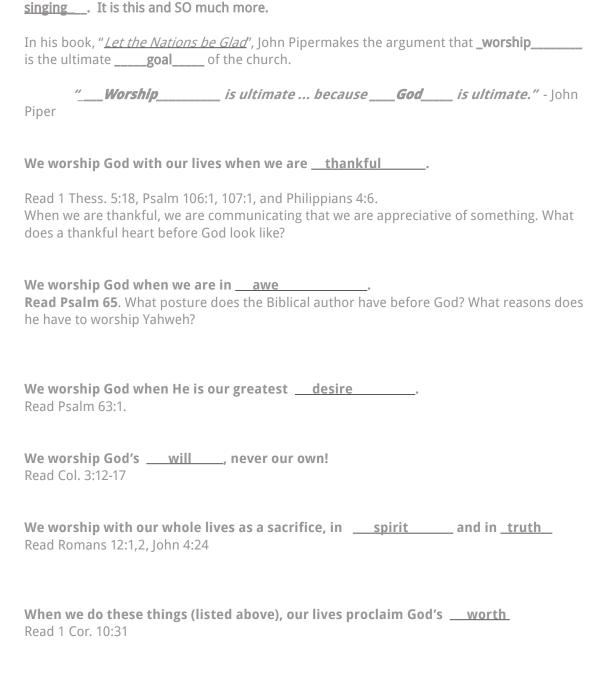
Today we are going to look at worship. It can be easy to look at worship as simply \_



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 

times a day.





# **DISCUSSION** ::

What are ways you can communicate you are thankful for God and to God?.

When you think about God, what makes you feel in awe of Him?

If worship is about ascribing honor and glory to something. How did Jesus do this? Give examples.

What is the opposite of true worship?

### ReRead Colossians 3:12-17.

According to this passage what are some of the ways we can worship God with our lives?

What does Paul mean when he says we should clothe ourselves with these things?

How do you think even something like forgiveness is an act of worship?



# BURNING WITH MUNICIPAL MUNICIPA

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7



There are a lot of confusing ideas in our world about what it means to be sexual. You hear messages every day from different sources; your friends, people at school, sex education classes, movies, TV, and the Internet. Everyone seems to have different ideas. But have you ever thought about what God says about your sexuality?

Where are you at right now? Are guys or girls still gross? Have you recently started to notice someone? Or are you girl or boy crazy right now?

Take some time today and be honest with where you are. Write down 5 questions you would want to ask someone you could trust when it comes to the area of sexuality.

# DAY TWO :: What does God say?

**Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:18–24.** In Genesis 2:8 God says for the first time that something is not good. Why do you think it would be "not good" for Adam to be alone?

When God says he will make a woman the word means a compliment or someone who will aid him. Not that she will be his servant. Why do you think God created us for this relationship?

Why do you think God would design sex for marriage?

### DAY THREE :: What now?

This week we'll be talking a little about what God says about our sexuality. God has a lot to say and we can't cover it all. Instead, we will seek to give you the backdrop for why God calls us to be self-controlled in our sexuality.

**Read 1 Corinthians 7:9–11.** The apostle Paul speaks about sexuality a lot. In one passage that is talking about singleness and marriage, Paul encourages people who "burn with passion" or who are excited for marriage to get married and not feel bad about it.

Are you excited for marriage? Do you look forward to sharing life with someone you love?

# GOD LOVE MARRIAGE SEX :: Week 21 TEACHING ::



### **GOD**

### Read Genesis 1:28

God created humans in His image. Because God exists in relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are hardwired for relationship. It is how we are created!

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Guiness
World Record
for the longest
marriage is
86 years,
9 months,

### Love

### Read Genesis 2:18-24.

God presents to Adam his ally. Adams sings over her a love song!

God intended for this to happen. The next question is "What is love?" Simple. Love = Jesus on a Cross.

### Read 1 John 3:10 & Hebrews 12:2

Love is a feeling and an action.



### Marriage

### Now read Genesis 2:24

In this moment God created marriage.

God intended it to be part of creation. It is not a by-product or a social construct. It is woven into the fabric of God's design.

### Sex

### Read Genesis 1:28

What is God telling Adam and Eve to do? God created sex. God said of His creation that it was good. So...sex is good as God intended it to be.

### **BUT ....**

Our understanding of what God intended for love, marriage and sex is broken **Read Galations 5:16,17** 

Our response, as followers of Jesus, is to search for what God says about everything, even love, sex and marriage. It is important to understand that our "flesh" is naturally in conflict with God's intended design and we must humbly submit to God's Will.

### **DISCUSSION** ::

### **LOVE**

Love is a pretty crazy thing. We can love a person, but we can also love tacos. The Bible has amore specific idea of what love actually is . **Read 1 John 3:16, John 3:16 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**.

How does this line up with what movies and culture tell us about Love?

If this is true about love how do we express love toward other people?

### SEX

Just because God designed us to be sexual does not mean we can always trust what our bodies tell us to do when it comes to our sexuality. Why do you think that this might be true? Can you think of wrong or bad urges to follow?

Sex is a gift from God, but it is plain to see that people are sexually broken. What evidence do you see of this?

There is a tendency in all people to turn gifts into idols/gods. Sex is no exception. Where do you see this in culture? In yourself?

### Read Col. 5:5-14

The call for all christians is to "put to death" the things of our old life. This list is not about sexual immorality exclusively, but it is included. This letter is also written to a community of believers. The act of "putting to death" is something we are meant to do together, along with the Holy Spirit.

How can you, as a group, help each other "put to death" sinful things?



# TRANDAMINATION THE CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10



A lot of Christians know a lot of facts about God but their hearts are far from Him. **Read Matthew 15:8–9**. What is Jesus accusing the Pharisee's of doing? If Jesus looked at your life what would he say to you? Does Jesus have your heart?

Max Lucado wrote, "God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you there. He wants you to be just like Jesus." What areas of your life does God need to continue to do work in to make you more like Jesus?

# DAY TWO :: What does God say?

People are always growing, whether it's physically, mentally, socially, or emotionally. But we also grow spiritually as the Holy Spirit is working to form us into the image of Christ. Sometimes we want to hide from God. We carry this crazy idea that if we don't talk to God about what is going on in our lives that he won't know about it.

**Read Hebrews 4:12–13**. This verse says God discerns (or recognizes) the thoughts and intentions of your heart. Even if you never speak those thoughts out loud! How does that make you feel?

What things have you been trying to hide from God? Maybe you are having doubts about God? Maybe it is sin in your life that you won't acknowledge? Maybe its spiritual apathy or laziness?

Take some time to begin the process of allowing God access to not only your mind but also your heart. Ask him to continue to transform you so that you look increasingly like Jesus.

# **DAY THREE :: What now?**

Yesterday we thought about how God knows us inside and out and yet He still wants us to come to him with confidence. What do we gain by coming before God with all of our problems?

**Read 2 Corinthians 3:17–18.** What does Paul say happens when we witness the glory of the Lord? How should being amazed by who Jesus is make us want to be more like him?

If you want to be transformed and become more like Christ, you need to come before the Lord without hiding anything and let Him transform you by His Spirit.

If that is something you want, spend some time in prayer presenting yourself before God. If not, spend some time praying and asking God why.



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Every day your heart creates enough energy to drive a truck for 20 miles.



# TRANSFORMING THE HEART :: Week 22 TEACHING ::

### The Heart and Spiritual Formation

**Read Mark 7:20–23.** What is the thing that produces evil in a person? Why do you think Jesus pinpoints this?

It's important to understand that the biblical authors had a different understanding of the heart and they communicate about it in ways that might seem strange to modern readers.

The Hebrew word for heart is Lev or Levav

The writers did not have a concept of the brain, so they imagined that all the intellectual activity took place in the heart.

Read Proverbs 2:10 and 1 Kings 3:9

The heart is where you think and make sense of the world, but it is also where you feel emotions. This includes pain and joy.

Read Judges 16:25

The heart is where you make choices motivated by your desires. **Read 2 Samual 7:3** 

In the Bible the heart is the center of all parts of human existence **Read Proverbs 4:23** 

### But there is a Problem

The heart is fundamentally broken

### Read Jeremiah 17:9

It is the thing that drives our lives and can produce both good and evil actions. Jesus came to earth to change people's hearts, and thus to change the whole person.

**Read Ezekiel 36:26**. What does God promise to do?

### God is about Changing our hearts

Following Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_\_ Him to give you a new heart. However, this is something we can't do on our own. We need the \_HOLY Spirit\_\_to help us change the deepest parts of ourselves.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION: "the process of reshaping or redeveloping [the heart] until it has, to a substantial degree, the character of the [heart] of Jesus himself."
-Dallas Willard

### **DISCUSSION** ::

### **How Do We Let God Form Our Hearts?**

One of the ways we participate in spiritual formation is by engaging in spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are things that help us change our heart to be more like Christ. The desire as you practice these disciplines is to have a posture that says, "God use this time to shape and change me to make me more like Jesus."

### **SOLITUDE & SILENCE**

**Read Luke 5:15–16.** Although great crowds were following Jesus, what did Jesus choose to do? Why do you think he did this?

Choosing to spend time in solitude and silence allows us to remove ourselves from the world and examine ourselves as we spend time with God alone. Why is solitude and silence important?

### **FASTING**

**Read Matthew 4:2**. What does this verse show Jesus doing? Why do you think Jesus did this?

Fasting helps us remember that we don't need the things we give up and what we really need is God to sustain us. Why might we as Christians do this?

### **BIBLE STUDY**

**Read Luke 2:46**. What do we find Jesus doing here? Why do you think he is doing this? How is studying God's Word beneficial?

Bible Study helps us engage and meditate on the Word of God. Why would this be important?

### **PRAYER**

**Read Matthew 26:36.** What does Jesus do in this verse? Why do you think he is doing this? Why should we pray?

Prayer is conversing, communicating with God. In prayer we are able to talk to God and share what's on our hearts and hear Him speak. What are your habits of prayer?

As you wrap up Roots, it is important to remember that everything we've learned is not just for your information but is designed to lead us into transformation. Finish your time in your groups asking God to use your new knowledge of Him to transform your heart.