

September 29nd VISION 2020 – “God’s Perspective on the Journey.”

This sheet is designed to help you prepare for your next group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – was there anything you heard for the very first time? What specifically caught your attention? Was there anything that confused you or challenged you?

Introduction

In this sermon we looked at the Greatest Commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Pastor Jeff used the statement, **“a church with an unadulterated love”** to summarize this commandment. What comes to your mind when you hear that statement? Why do you think this is considered the “greatest commandment?”

Digging IN

In this week’s message we asked the question, “what kind of people does God envision us to be?” We looked at two different passages, **Matthew 22:34-40** and **Matthew 6:25-34**. From both of these passages we were challenged by two different statements:

- God wants us to be a church with an unadulterated love.
 - God wants us to be a church with an unrivaled priority.
1. Read **Romans 1:18-25**. How does this passage relate to the statement of “unadulterated love” or “unrivaled priority?”
 - a. How do you see this in your own life?
 2. Read **Galatians 4:8-9**. How does this passage relate to the statement of “unadulterated love” or “unrivaled priority?”

- b. How do you prevent your heart from turning back again to the "weak and worthless" principles of this world?
3. Jesus shows us that in order to Love God and Love your Neighbor, it is impossible to do if our loves and priorities are out of order. Because our hearts are still prone to sin, we will worship the created rather than the Creator. Listed below are some common idols that people in our world struggle with. **Identify which ones you struggle the most with. Write down some reason why that might be the case for you.**

| Idol | Your Fear | Your Problem Emotion | How People Around You Feel |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| COMFORT (Freedom, Privacy) | Stress, Demands | Boredom | Neglected |
| APPROVAL (Affirmation, Love) | Rejection | Fear | Smothered |
| POWER (Success, Influence) | Embarrassment | Anger | Used |
| CONTROL (Standards, Certainty) | Uncertainty | Anxiety | Condemned |

4. Once idols are identified, they can be confronted and destroyed. **Read Ephesians 5:8-14.** Write down ways that you can drag your idols out of the darkness and expose them.

Taking it Home

List a few practical ways you can apply what God has taught you through your time this week studying these things.

- 1.
- 2.

Praise / Prayer Requests

⇒

⇒

⇒

⇒