SERMON: I Once Was a Child

Series: People of the Once Was

Pastor Derek

January 10, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Have a group member read aloud: **1 Corinthians 13:11.** Why does Paul’s reference to himself as a child provide such useful and powerful imagery in defining our need for spiritual growth?
3. Prior to this “*Once Was”* sermon series, how would you describe your focus and efforts toward spiritual growth? After experiencing these sermons from pastors John and Derek can you see the need to “…put your childish ways behind you”? Derek asks that we go to God with one simple question, “What’s next in my spiritual growth?” Have you prayed this prayer? Would you be willing to share God’s answer to you with the group?
4. Derek said that age, knowledge and religious activity do not necessarily move us toward spiritual maturity. Read **Galatians 5:16-25.** Paul’s lists allow us to do a spiritual inventory and assess our current stage of maturity. Tim Keller said, “you are not saved by fruit- you are saved by faith but you are never saved to a fruitless faith.” Can the people in your life see the fruit of your living by the Spirit? How are you encouraged by Derek’s words, “spiritual growth is gradual and it is inevitable when you’re connected to God”?
5. Read **Timothy 4:7-8.** Share a nonspiritual area of your life where intentionality and training have paid off. Did a friend or associate hold you accountable? The Big Idea this week was “spiritual growth is possible with Christ.” What life changes will we see as a result of intentionality, training and accountability in our pursuit of Christ?

APPLICATION:

Read **Proverbs 27:17.** Can your group list several examples where some means of accountability promotes right behavior at home, at work and in the community? Now list several specific ways that you can arrange for your life group and church community to hold you accountable in some aspect of your day-to-day walk of faith.

PRAYER THOUGHT:

Lord, you’ve taught us that wisdom is available to all that follow you. We pray for the wisdom to understand our need to take disciplined action in order to become more Christ-like. Help us to develop an effective plan to move us to maturity in Christ.