SERMON: Spiritual Vitality

Pastor Derek

Aug 9, 2015

**Small 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. This week’s core value is stated this way: *Spiritual Vitality: Our gatherings are marked by spiritual energy and passion. We’re fueled by our desire to continually take next steps in our relationship with Jesus.*  How have you seen this value being lived out at Grace? In what ways have you seen it being lived out in your own life?
3. Read together John 7:37-39 and consider the following:
* What is the significance of the metaphor of a river in this passage?
* How does Jesus make good on his offer to quench our deepest of thirsts?
* What are competing “waters” we tend to run to for our ultimate satisfaction? How can those waters disappoint us in the long run?
1. On a scale of 1-10: if 1 is “dried up” and 10 is “filled up with living water” where would you place yourself on the scale? Why?

Pastor Derek presented 3 Keys to Spiritual Vitality: 1) Change from the inside out, 2) Focus on steps and not perfection, and 3) Stay connected to the source of living water.

1. Derek said that God brings changes in our lives from the inside out and challenged us to consider, “are you cooperating with the changes that the Spirit of God is trying to bring to your inner life?” How would you respond to that question?
2. We were challenged to not fixate on being perfect, but simply do the next right thing. What is your next step spiritually?
3. Oswald Chambers said, “Your faith will flourish and not faint if you take the time to quench your thirsty soul.” What are some ways you have found to stay connected to the source of living water?
4. Application: How can we as a small group encourage each other to live in the “abundance” of Jesus through the Holy Spirit and the life that He offers?

**Prayer Thought:**

Encourage each person in your group to identify a spiritual next step that they need to take. Get in a circle, and then as the leader – encourage everyone to pray silently for the person to their left in their next step, and then after a moment encourage them to pray silently for the person to their right in their next step. After a few minutes - close the group in prayer.

**Series Memory Verse:**

2 Timothy 2:22 – *Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*