

EPHESIANS

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



February 25, 2024



WELCOME

At RCC, the Bible tells us that God wants us to find our greatest joy in Him and that He desires for us to share this experience with others.

So our mission is - To encourage people to **Enjoy God Together**.

And our vision is - To **build joy-filled communities of faith** whose very existence inspires individuals to live an abundant Christian life, **made up of three key relationships - r1, r2, and r3**.

r1 – A deepening relationship with God

r2 – A life-changing relationship with other believers

r3 – An engaging relationship with those yet to believe

To get there, we have a few things that matter to us:



WE FIND OUR GREATEST JOY IN JESUS



WHAT WE THINK ABOUT GOD MATTERS



WE HELP PEOPLE HELP PEOPLE



WE CELEBRATE QUESTIONS



WE EMBRACE INEVITABLE TENSIONS



THIS IS FOR LIFE

SPECIAL MEETING AFTER 2ND SERVICE

March 3rd

Please join us on **Sunday, March 3rd after 2nd Service** for a Special Meeting, called by the Elders, to hear updates on the Lead Pastor search process.

Since the announcement on 10/29, the process of identifying prospects began and during this time we have received questions from the congregation. At this meeting on 3/3, the Elders will share their response to the congregation's questions and share the plan for moving the process forward.

Childcare will be available.



MEN'S

Saturday, March 2nd
@RCC | 8am | \$5

BREAKFAST

Come join other men from RCC for breakfast on Saturday, March 2nd. We'll eat, chat, and get encouraged during our time together.

Date/Time: Saturday, March 2nd

Location: Student Building at RCC

Cost: \$5

You can register at richfieldcc.org/events. For any questions, contact Steven at stevenh@richfieldcc.org.



Beginning March 4th, we are encouraging all of our RCC Family to join us in a fast each Monday leading up to Easter. We hope you'll join us!

Why Fast?

Fasting is an opportunity to draw near to God and connect with Him in a special way. By taking an everyday experience (eating, using social media, watching TV, etc.) and instead turning to God in prayer, we grow our reliance on Him to replace something that we traditionally treat as necessary.

Why Fast Now?

As we prepare for Easter, we want to pray for more ongoing spiritual transformation. We want to see God's love more fully and more clearly. And, we want to come away from fasting more confident that God is able and happy to supply all the spiritual needs of His people.

How Will This Work?

Each Sunday during March, we'll share a theme, related Scripture, and questions to pray over. We'll send these through email and text message so that you have them before you start your fast on Monday.

To kick this off, we'll spend Sunday morning, March 3rd, talking about fasting as part of our time in Worship together.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK:

Ephesians 5:3-14

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

NOTES:

The Gift of Discomfort

Ephesians 5:3-14

Jonny Burns - February 24, 2024

One of the greatest expressions of the love of God is that He shines His light in our darkness. It's an amazing gift, but often doesn't feel like it.

The world is full of darkness.

Be increasingly thankful for the gift of His light.

Be a refreshing light in the darkness around us.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Ephesians 5:3-14

For the week of February 25, 2024

Reading the Text:

1. What was the big idea of the previous text, Ephesians 5:1-2?
2. Verses 3-7 gives some characteristics of what it looks like to walk in darkness. What about this list stands out to you most? Why? What does Paul say are the consequences for those who live in darkness?
3. What are the “empty words” Paul is referring to in v. 6, and how could they be deceitful?
4. Identify each time Paul mentions the idea of “light” in this text. What does “light” have to do with the life of those who are members of Christ’s body?
5. How would you state the big idea of the Ephesians 5:3-14 in your own words?

Living It Out:

1. What does living in the darkness look like today? What are some of the deceiving lies culture uses to lure us into darkness? What does living in the light look like?
2. Describe a time where it was difficult for you to “discern what is pleasing to the Lord”. What was it like?
3. How can our Life Group encourage each other to live more confidently as children of the light in a dark world? How can we appropriately practice and apply ideas from this text?

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