

For the week of April 15-21, 2018

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from April 14-15

Luke 24: Yielding to God-Given Authority

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE:

"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."—Romans 13:8

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

Jesus makes very clear that Christians are to be stellar examples of love, kindness, mercy, grace and all the other attributes of God. We are to show this world what it means to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and are called to continually yield to the Spirit's guidance and direction. Yet, in some areas of life we really want to have our own way. We like making our own decisions about how we spend our energy, our resources, and our time. Most people really do not like to be told what to do. Resisting authority figures seems very much a part of human nature. In Romans 13:1-8 God clearly tells us that He places authority figures in their positions and it is our duty to act appropriately. We are to pay taxes and give honor and respect to employers, supervisors, teachers, government leaders, and all those God places in positions of authority.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Why do you think it is so hard for people to yield to those in authority?
2. What measures can believers employ when they encounter difficulty yielding to authority?
3. How can the act of yielding to another person bring glory to God?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

The passage under discussion concludes with a call to pursue Christ's greatest commandment—to love one another. Considering that we are called to avoid owing any debts to those in authority—debts of taxes, customs, fear, and honor—think about what it means to owe a debt of love to all people.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. How can resisting authority interfere with our ability to pay our debts of love to all people?
2. Are there ever times when obeying authority can interfere with our ability to love all people? (Present some concrete examples if possible.)
3. If authorities demand that we do things that are in opposition to God's command to love, how are we to respond?
4. What steps can we take to make sure we understand when authorities are asking us to do things that are outside of God's will, or when we are being asked to do things that are merely beyond our will?

OPEN DISCUSSION:

We can all learn so much from one another's insights. Spend a few minutes sharing any points you remember from this sermon.

1. Did anything particularly resonate with you?
2. Have you had an opportunity to apply the message? If so, how?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that the Holy Spirit would give believers great wisdom in knowing how to recognize and yield to the authority figures God ordains. Pray that we would know how to pray for our leadership and relinquish control over all that we are—including our resources—to the will of God. Pray that God's truth would be our yardstick for life and that in all things, we would not "lean on our own understanding," (Proverbs 3:5) but submit to God's perfect law of love.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@calvaryboise.com with your insight.

Weekly Prayer Requests

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work” –Titus 3:1

“The world asks, ‘What does a man own?’ Christ asks, ‘How does he use it?’ –Andrew Murray

Our Core Group:

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Our International Missions

From Italy: Brent and Hope Harrell ask that we pray for the upcoming retreat for all of the Calvary Chapels in Italy. Please pray for the time to be encouraging and blessed, for the teaching to be anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, and that the Lord would work among His people personally and collectively.

From Canada: Marlon and Becca Brown ask that we pray for the following requests -

- **Becca’s Surgery** – Becca will be returning to Oregon for surgery on April 30th. This is the final step for her nerve stimulator permanent implant. It will be monitored and adjusted over the course of a week. Pray for the surgery and especially for Becca’s recovery. Pray for their travel. Ask that God will bless the children while Marlon and Becca are away. Pray for financial provision. Most of all pray that this would be her last surgery, and that God would heal her.
- **Easter Service follow up** – Please pray for the people who attended this outreach and heard the good news of the gospel. Pray that God’s Word would take hold of their hearts. Pray that the church would continue to step out in faith and engage our community.
- **New Children’s Ministry**- We are going to be launching a Children’s Ministry this week. We will be doing a 10-week pilot program at our house. Mainly with our children and some of their friends. Pray that God would use this ministry in a mighty way to reach and disciple young children. Pray for joyful volunteers that have a passion for children and for God’s word. Pray for wisdom and grace to execute the vision God has given us.
- **Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre**- Major Praise Report!!!! Awake Vancouver has been given a code to use the building whenever we want, as long as it is approved in advance. Obviously this is a praise report, but it is also a prayer request. God has given us more access because there is more work to be done. We are going to be testing the waters with some outreach ideas. But pray for wisdom. We want to seize this opportunity for His glory!

From Global Missions: Please pray for the upcoming Mission Conference and the upcoming Mission trip to Europe. Ask that the Lord will give great vision and direction. Ask that hearts will be united by the power of the Holy Spirit.

From Send Hope Now: Please pray that we will soon have sufficient funds to re-open the Bible College. Ask that our stateside team will know exactly where to put their energy and resources especially in fundraising efforts. Pray that the new board of directors will lead efficiently and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Local Ministry: Children's Ministry

- Please pray for more volunteers. There are openings for both teachers and helpers. Please ask that the Lord will show people how much joy they will experience as they point these little ones to Jesus and help lay a foundation for His future Kingdom on Earth.