

John 10:27-29 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To open up about the depths of our struggle with shame and to find comfort in the gospel.

Transition: To grow in our faith requires us to know God's word well and to know our hearts. We have to be willing to examine where our hearts struggle with unbelief, where they treasure the wrong things, and where there are wounds that affect how we see God. This week's sermon sets us up for a more personal discussion where we are willing to let light shine into some of the darker corners of our hearts.

Discussion

1. Keith described the painful flashbacks we all have when we remember a painful time we did something wrong. Keith talked about the time he lied to his grandmother and how he never wrote Szabolcs. Would any of you be willing to share about one of the memories that plagues you that would be alright for this group setting? *Or lighter question, did you do anything dumb as a kid that you find yourself still being embarrassed about?*
2. Keith also told us that we all are prone to insecurity. Are there people or relationships that cause you to ask "am I good enough"?

Read Genesis 3:7. "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."

3. Keith also referenced how Adam and Eve made fig leaves to hide their failure. This is a way we all try to cope with shame, hiding behind masks: being seen as having it all together, being the smartest person in the room, being the religious person, the always busy person, etc. What are the masks that you are tempted to try on?

John 9:1-5 Sermon-Based Discussion

If we know these horrible things we have done and we try to hide it, the question and doubt running through our heads is how can God accept us? The problem of Genesis 3:7 is not nakedness in and of itself, it's shame.

Read Isaiah 61:10. "I delight greatly in the Lord; /my soul rejoices in my God. /For he has clothed me with garments of salvation /and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, /as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, /and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

4. How does this verse point us to what Jesus does to solve our problem of shame?
5. How does Keith's illustration of the way that the groom looks at his bride dressed on their wedding day to describe how God feels about us in Christ help us?

Read John 10:27-29. "27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[a]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

6. How does all of this understanding of what Jesus has done help us to better understand how we are known completely by Jesus and yet still he will never leave us?
7. Keith described the problem how we often have one eye on Jesus and one eye on ourselves in our struggle with shame. How would our lives and our community be changed if we could fix our eyes on him more fully?

Sharing and Prayer Time

Consider having people split into pairs or smaller groups to pray for each other in light of their personal struggles with shame that came to light.