Life Group Questions – January 3rd 2021

Psalm 100:4-5 ***'****Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courtyards with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the* LORD *is good; His mercy is everlasting And His faithfulness is to all generations.'*

DISCOVER

1. Read Psalm 100. According to the psalm, who is God and what is He like?
2. The psalm also tells us about ourselves. According to this psalm, who are we?
3. We hear "bless the Lord" a lot. What does this mean?

EXPLORE

1. Read Colossians 3:15-17. How does peace rule in our hearts? What does it mean to *"do everything in the Name of Lord Jesus"*? What does the Apostle Paul mean by writing, *"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you"*?
2. Read Romans 8:28. Given the difficulties of 2020, how can we trust God to work all things out for our good and for His glory? Be specific in how God has shown-up in your life (e.g. more time with family, provision, etc.) Have your unchurched friends observed unshakeable faith in you? Why or why not?

EXPERIENCE

1. Gratitude and thankfulness are difficult for some believers to internalize because they may have a misunderstanding of what it means to be grateful. Have you ever struggled to say "Thank you" when it's not in your heart? Why do you think this is? What can you do to cultivate an authentic **attitude** of gratitude?
2. Has God changed the mission of His church in any way this year? Discuss how God has prepared His church for the future through the unprecedented impacts of 2020.
3. Consider the story of Job. He suffered extreme hardships and never uttered a word against the Lord. Despite all his anguish, he never cursed God. In fact, in the end, Job repented! (see Job 42:1-6) …and then Job was blessed! How can you be more like Job as he dealt with all the adversities?

PRAY

Pray that God would give us teachable spirits; that we would understand that our difficulties are all teaching moments for His glory and that we should strive to be thankful for them. (Name the difficulties and praise God for how He is using them for your good.) Ask God to awaken our hearts to use His Word as a worship tool and teaching us to listen carefully to Him and to live expectantly in His will for our lives.