



Key References:

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV)

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Matthew 6:31–33 (ESV)

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NIV)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 – STANDING BEFORE GOD IN GRACE

Who’s the biggest celebrity that you’ve ever met? How did you get access to them? Could you easily go see them again if you wanted to?

What does it mean for you to approach God from a place of Grace? Why is this important?

Mike said; “*Grace is not a licence to sin; grace is access to the throne room of God.*” What stands out to you when we view Grace as access to God?

What is the relationship between your behaviour and your access to God?

2 – INTERLECTUAL VS. SPIRITUAL GOSPEL

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. What does it mean “to know nothing except Christ crucified”? On Sunday Mike said: “*The Gospel is not intellectual, it’s spiritual.*” What methods of sharing the gospel are intellectual? What are examples of a spiritual way?

Read verse 4 & 5 again. What are different ways that the Spirit’s power can be demonstrated though us to non-believers? What do you find important from the warning in verse 5?

3 – ANXIETY AND CONTAINMENT

Mike said “*if I walked around all day with a penny in my eye, I would think the sun had died and it would be pitch black. And, that’s what happens when we only focus on [our problems]*” How do you keep your perspective on God in hard times? How do our anxieties keep us in containment spiritually and physically?

Read Matthew 6:31-33. Do you have a testimony that fits with this verse? What does it mean to seek first the kingdom in spite of our anxieties?

Read Philippians 4:6-7. What happens when wait in his presence? What is the firm promise found in verse 7? How does God’s peace guard our hearts?

How would you describe this peace that transcends understanding to a non-believer?

Additional References:

Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)

³ Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Matthew 18:3–4 (ESV)

³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Isaiah 58:7–9 (ESV)

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,