



I Am getting to know God

(a 3-4 part video driven Bible Study created by BlueFishTV)

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

-Jeremiah 29:13

Our worth needs to come, not from what other people think about us, but what God thinks of us. God loves us so much that he sent his one and only son for us so that we will not perish but have eternal life.

-David Nasser

I Am Getting to Know God: An Introduction to this Series...

A series created by BlueFishTV with David Nasser (speaker and author of Glory Revealed)

A series modified from its original version, it has been formatted to fit your screen by Drew Johnson (Senior High Director, Woodridge Church)

One of my favorite few paragraphs in anything I've ever read is in Exodus when God and Moses meet for the very first time. Exodus 3 tells us of the amazing burning bush that Moses sees while he is watching the flock of his father-in-law. He sees a bush that is on fire but it isn't burning up and he's curious so he goes to take a look. As he gets close the bush actually speaks to him...it says his own name. What ensues is this amazing conversation between Moses and God where God gives Moses a glimpse into an amazing plan that he is going to be a part of.

My favorite part of the story is when Moses asks God what God's name is, he says if people ask me what your name is what should I tell them? God responds, "I AM WHO I AM." God also tells Moses to tell the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.'

I want so much for everyone I know to meet God, to have encounters with God where God shows them a glimpse of an amazing plan that they are going to be a part of. I never had an experience even close to a burning bush but I have encountered God and I am different because of it.

In Exodus 3 God says I AM WHO I AM. I love that. When I hear that I hear God saying, "I exist". I hear God saying "I am here." I get the sense that God exists and is present apart from me or anyone or anything - when I hear I AM WHO I AM I think about holiness.

Lately I have been consumed by the relationship between how we view God, how we view ourselves and how we view others. When we understand God's identity as honestly as we possibly can it informs on how we see our own identity and that in turn informs on how we see everyone and everything else. When we don't see God as I AM, as Holy, as God we can't really see ourselves the way we are supposed to either, our identity gets broken. And finally the way we see others, and the way we see the world gets broken too.

I believe that God wants to fix the broken things of our world. I believe that God wants to restore us. And I believe that begins with fixing our broken images of God and fixing the way we relate to God. In my opinion that's what this I AM series is all about and that's why I love it.

As you go through this with your group focus on getting out of the way as God introduces students to himself. But at the same time allow God to use you to share how you have gotten to know God and how it has changed you. Encourage students, maybe even challenge them a little bit to look at God with fresh eyes. When Moses saw that burning bush it must have really messed with him at first, and I think that being a bit disoriented, nervous, even scarred put him in a position to see God with fresh eyes and join God's amazing plan to fix what was broken.

I Am: Looking for God

Drew Johnson's Blog (some thoughts to help you lead this conversation with your students)

When we went down to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2009 we took one trip that was all students going into 11th grade. This class has been one that our church community has been proud of, protective of and very excited about since they were in elementary school. These kids have great parents, great adult influences and they are becoming really remarkable people. But one thing that surprised me when we were in the DR was how many of them doubted whether or not God really existed because they didn't have any personal experiences of God to sort of hang their hat on. Personal experience is probably the most powerful influencer on students in this generation. When I was growing up things were true because people said they were, they were true because I read them somewhere and that was good enough for me. Today, things are real and true to a point if I've never experienced them but once I've experienced something as true for me that is when it really grabs ahold of my heart.

Today you are going to have the opportunity to widen students perceptions of how God can speak to them. In a sense you will have an opportunity to broaden the available number of God Moments or God Experiences a student can have. God will use you to show students that God is speaking to them if only they'll look in the right place, if only they'll look with all of who they are.

What happens when students experience God is that God takes over in their lives, they become captivated by God, they become enamored with God, they become transformed. That's what happened on our summer missions trip in 2009. Students encountered God (many of them in ways they didn't expect to encounter God) and it rocked them. God uses experiences with this generation because they are so important to them, what we can do is show students that reading someone else's story in the Bible can become our own experience of God. Hearing the testimony of a friend, can become our experience. Going through a tough, even a tragic circumstance, can become our experience of God.

This first week focus on two things. First, focus on expanding students understanding of how God speaks (audibly, through circumstances, through friends, through the Bible, etc.). Second focus on getting students to understand that they have a role when it comes to hearing from God. We need to be listening for God in all the different ways God speaks and we need to seek God with all our hearts. After understanding and admitting our need for our Savior, nothing seems more important to me in this world than realizing that we can only have one priority. If we're really going to hear from God consistently our "pure and holy passion" needs to be God.

Goal: Learning how God speaks, how to hear God's voice.

Interaction: How do your parents talk to you? Do they use different voices in different situations? Have you been able to figure out what they're thinking just by their tone of voice? When they really want to get your attention what do they say or do?

Introduction: Today we're not talking about your parents. We're talking about God and how we listen to God. It's an interesting question: Does God use different tones of voice with us? What does he say to get our attention?

Prayer: Jesus, be with us tonight. Give us ears to hear what you are going to say to each of us, no matter what "tone of voice" you use.

Media: Play Looking for God Video (14 minutes)

Video Discussion:

What was Halle's problem?

(she lacks confidence; she doesn't think she looks pretty enough, she feels like an outcast.)

Do you think this is a common problem?

Do you know people who feel that way?

What would you say to her if you had the chance?

In the video David Nasser suggested that the church could be a place of safety and acceptance for everyone, including Halle. Do you think it is?

What do you think a group like ours could do to help someone like Halle understand her value?

Remember what that first guy Michael said: When I hear other people talking about hearing God's voice, I wonder if it's going to be something really big or really small. I've just never heard it. I've asked God things, what he wants me to do, and he's never answered me.)

Have you ever felt like that?

How does God tell us what he wants? Is it a big voice or a small voice, or something else?

Musician David Crowder said that the times he sees God revealed most are the times his wife gives him grace and forgiveness. When or where do you see God?

Transition to Scripture: When you flip through the pages of the Bible, it seems like God is always talking to people. He calls out to Adam and Eve in the Garden. He tells Noah to build an ark. He speaks to Moses from a burning bush. God's communication seems so regular and a part of every day life for people in the Bible. Sometimes that sort of communication between God and humans happens today, but there are lots of Christians who are frustrated because they're not hearing the voice of God. Or at least they're not recognizing it.

Scripture:

Turn to Psalm 28, would someone read verses 1-2?

How would you describe David's feelings at this point?

What does he call the Lord in verse 1?

What is the "pit" that he's worried about?

Have you ever felt like this, as if God is silent? What does it feel like?

Turn to Jeremiah 29:10.

Background: If God ever seemed far away, it was at this point. For years, Jeremiah had been saying that God was going to judge his people by sending them into captivity for seventy years. They kept saying, "Yeah, yeah. Jeremiah, you're just too negative."

Well, it happened just as he said. The Babylonians invaded, conquered, and took many of the Jews into captivity. So there they were, in Babylon, wishing they had listened to Jeremiah in the first place, wondering if God would ever talk to them again.

But God did have a message for these people. We can read it in Jeremiah 29:10-13. Would somebody read that aloud?

What were God's plans for his people?

How do you think the Jews in captivity felt after receiving this message?

What does it mean to "seek God"? How do you seek him "with all your heart"?

(note: you could spend a lifetime answering this question. Remember it's more than a checklist of activities. It's a desire to know God, a commitment to please God. When you seek something "with all your heart" you make it a priority.

Take Away: Religion was easy back in the time of Jeremiah. Before they were taken captive, the people were saying, "Hey, God's Temple is here in Jerusalem. How could this city ever be conquered?" They were going to God's house, but they weren't listening to God's message.

Sometimes when faith gets too easy for us, God plays hard to get. We can get really casual about church and prayer and the Bible. We take it for granted, for a while. Then suddenly God seems far away.

He's not far. He just wants to be searched for. He wants you to want him. And the recurring message from the Bible is this:

"Seek, and you will find. Ask and it will be given to you. Knock and the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7).

Closing Prayer:

I Am: When Bad Things Happen

Drew Johnson's Blog (some thoughts to help you lead this conversation with your students)

Note: If you're only going to be able to do 3 weeks of this 4 week curriculum (which is totally cool by the way) I would recommend skipping this week. If you'd rather skip a different one that's awesome too, but that's my suggestion.

This week actually has a lot of things it is trying to accomplish (but it is totally ok if your group only really grabs on to one thing in particular). First, there is a really powerful video that focuses on personal tragedies in people's lives and how they responded to God with unpleasant emotions. Our students need to understand that God is big enough to handle all their sadness, all their anger and all their pain and our students need to understand that the Bible is full of people who relate to God honestly - even when they aren't feeling happy.

One of the great tragedies of American Christianity is that we put on this happy face, this facade, around God and each other. I can remember times in my own life when I went into church with a mask of happiness on because I didn't want to be real around people or around God. When we start thinking like that we screw up who God is and who God wants to be. We play a trick on ourselves that distorts who God is and we stop being real with people who care about us.

When we don't understand God as creator, as one to speak to and one who speaks to us we're missing it. A lot of times when we miss it we turn God into an idol, or an ATM. That's the second big point of this week, and it flows out of the first point. I've talked about us turning God into an action figure before, something portable that we can take with us and mold and bend to fit what we want. I've also heard about God talked about as an ATM, we want someone to give us the code so that we can get what we want out of God. Both of these metaphors reveal how self-focused we are and how we see God through our own focus on what we want. The truth of the Bible is that God is creator and sustainer not action figure or ATM. And we obviously all need to understand that.

There is one other picture that I want you to think about as you prepare to bring these two key points together for your group. Sometimes when we talk to teenagers we can kind of whack them over the head and knock them unconscious...the only lasting memory they have of what happened is a huge lump on their heads (sometimes I think it is good to do a bit of head whacking, but not always). Tonight, think about a different picture - a different way of relating. Students are going to be opening up about how they relate to God when bad things have happened to them and students are going to start confronting how they see God and how they talk about and talk to God. These are big things and we need to be guides. Let students explore with each other (try and get them talking to one another and not just to you) and maybe even let them wander off a bit as they explore. Use your questions as sort of markers for the path, see if you can get students to walk back the direction you are taking the group rather than forcibly dragging them where you want to go.

Students are going to be reading a book of the Bible they probably have never thought to open tonight and with that comes a freshness but also an uneasiness. Trust that God will show you how to use both the freshness and the uneasiness to reveal truth about who God is to you and to the students you serve.

THANKS for serving!

Goal: God isn't an idol that we control. God is in control - not us.

Interaction: Divide the group into 2 teams and play "The Feud"

You have three questions here with a number of random answers. One side goes first, trying to guess as many answers as they can. A right guess is a point. A wrong guess is a "strike", and both teams get 3 strikes. If they guess all the correct answers, they get those points. But if they get three strikes, then the other side has an opportunity to steal all the points for that question-they have one chance to provide one of the remaining answers. If they fail, the first team keeps the points. Do the whole thing again on the second question, with the second team leading off. (It might be better to hold the third question as a possible tiebreaker).

Q1: Name an emotion you might feel when something bad happens.

A: anger, confusion, sadness, fear, worry/anxiety, denial, depression

Q2: What is something a person might do when angry?

A: swear, hit something, yell, try not to show it, escape (shopping/sports), get drunk/high, count to ten, threaten someone/plan revenge

Q3: Name a book of the Old Testament that has five chapters or less?

A: Ruth, Lamentations, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachai

Introduction: Your answers have been brilliant, and they'll be very important in what we're talking about tonight. The video today is called "When Bad Things Happen," and later we'll be looking into one of those short books of the Old Testament.

Prayer: God show us who you are tonight, teach us how to relate to you better.

Media: Play When Bad Things Happen (11 minutes)

Video Discussion:

Let's talk about the second story first. This girl named Gabby. Her friend was in some sort of accident. What happened there?

How did Gabby feel about that?

Earlier we heard from Tamika, whose mom died. Obviously that made her sad, but she was talking about other feelings, too. Do you remember how she felt? Lonely, fear, hurts, angry with God, etc.

How does a crisis like that affect a person's relationship with God? Has bad stuff ever affected your relationship with God?

Is it ok to get mad at God? Why or why not?

Do you think Christians feel any sort of pressure to avoid negative emotions like sadness or anger?

Did Jesus show emotions like sadness or anger?

What does that mean for us? What does it say about our emotions?

Do you think God uses tragic events to get our attention? (note: transition to scripture has a thought out answer for you if needed)

Transition to Scripture: God uses anything and everything to get our attention.

We can't say that he caused Brooke's accident so he could change Gabby's life.

(That would lead us into a whole cause-effect area that gets pretty murky.) But God does use the situations around us-to draw us closer to him.

Scripture:

Turn to the book of Habakkuk, one of the shortest books of the Bible, the fifth book from the end of the Old Testament. Would someone read Habakkuk 1:2-3?

What is it like in Habakkuk's world? (violent, unjust, and God seems far away).

Background: When Habakkuk was living the nation of Judah was living a lie - pretending to worship God but full of injustice and violence. Habakkuk is calling out the injustice and violence.

Into all of this God speaks, what does God say in Habakkuk 1:5?

What does God promise to do?

Who is God "raising up"? Read Habakkuk 1:6-7.

What are the Babylonians like? (ruthless, impetuous, violent, proud)

How do you think Habakkuk felt about this? Skip down to verses 12-13.

So what is Habakkuk's complaint?

Does Habakkuk have a point?

Somebody read Habakkuk 2:1.

How would you describe Habakkuk's attitude?

Do you think this is a good or bad attitude to have with God?

Have someone read 2:2-4.

What does verse 3 tell us about this message?

Why is it important for us to hear that God's promises might take time?

After all this build-up, we're eager to get this "revelation." But where is it? It certainly starts in verse 4. What do we learn there?

But what about the righteous? How are the righteous people different?

What does it mean to live by faith? Check out Romans 1:17.

How does "living by faith" affect us, in the good times and the bad times?

Take Away: Somebody read Habakkuk 2:18-20. How is God different from idols?

According to these verses, perhaps the most important difference is that our God speaks, idols don't? An idol is just an extension of the maker's own desires. But our God is far bigger than that. Our God has his own agenda. He has his own things to say.

We talk a lot about the idols of our culture, but think about this...sometimes we treat God like our personal idol. We expect God to do certain godly things for us...bless us, protect us, answer our prayers. But then something happens that shatters our illusions of God. The truth is that God is far bigger than our expectations. He will continually surprise us. God is doing his thing, not our thing. And we may never understand what he's up to. He doesn't seem to mind it when we, like Habakkuk, ask him for answers but then it's time to keep silent before him and listen. He has a lot to teach us about who he really is.

Does that make sense to you? Do you think we tend to treat God as an idol instead of the powerful God he is?

Closing Prayer: Ask a student to pray, pick one who you feel like really connected the dots between the tragedy in our lives and how we misunderstand who God is.

I Am: Identity

Drew Johnson's Blog (some thoughts to help you lead this conversation with your students)

One of our key words in Woodridge Student Ministries is Identity (the others are worship, community and others-centered). In tonight's LIFEgroup you are going to talk about Identity. We are going to hear from God's Word that we are created by God--that we literally have breath in our lungs because God breathed it into us. But then each of the students in your group will leave and they will enter a world that is telling them over and over in any number of ways different things about their identity, things that run counter to what God is telling us.

A lot of advertising seems to be based on the premise that you are not good enough, strong enough, pretty enough...you are not worthy until you have this (insert goofy product). And now you have this and as long as you keep having this you will be good enough, you will be worthwhile.

A lot of relationships seem to be conditional too, we are in relationship with people because of what they can do for us, what value they have for what we want. We reinforce this sense that you are not good enough unless you do this for me. I remember in college that I was friends with this one guy pretty much only because he had a car. If he didn't have that car, I would not have been friends with him. That is pretty messed up!

But then there is God saying I created you, I love you, you are good enough. Tonight pray and ask God to say that to each person in your group (including yourself) in ways that will make you not forget it, EVER. No matter what other people tell you.

God wants to be in relationship with us based on who God is and who God has created us to be - not based on the lies that we are told over and over. God also wants us to be in relationship with each other based on who God has created me to be and who God has created you to be.

I believe that when we see God as clearly as possible it will change the way we see ourselves (because our Identity is people created by the most awesome thing ever) and then that will in turn change the way we see others (because we're all created by God, not just some of us).

A lot of tonight's curriculum gives you the opportunity to encourage students, to see themselves as significant because they are created by God and that is really important, but I want to challenge you to go one step further and guide students into seeing others as equally significant because they are also created by God.

Goal: We are created by God, our life comes from God's breath. When we know we have been created by God it changes how we see ourselves and how we see others.

Interaction: What is your song? Maybe it's your favorite song, but I'm not just talking about a song you like. It's your song. Maybe it says something about you, or maybe it describes the feelings you have. Maybe you just connect with it in a way you can't describe. It could be your theme song. If they made a movie about your life, this song would have to be on the soundtrack. What is that song, and why do you connect with it?

Introduction: We're talking about Identity today. Who are we? We are created by God from the dust of the earth. We are this odd mixture of physical desire and spiritual power. We are capable of doing good things and bad things. But God gets that, and he's ready to forgive us for the bad things. He wants a relationship with us. He wants to send the breeze of his Spirit blowing through our lives, bringing us to life again. That's who we are. But he has also given us each a unique identity. Physically, we all have our own DNA, but we've also had unique experiences that have shaped us. Each of us has a distinct soul, a self, at the core of our being.

Prayer: Jesus, be with us tonight. Give us ears to hear what you are going to say to each of us, no matter what "tone of voice" you use.

Media: Play Identity Video (14 minutes)

Video Discussion:

What would you say to Laura or Bud, if you had the chance?
Laura talked about having trouble telling her parents how she was feeling. Why is that so tough?
David Nasser made this big point that we're "saints." What does that mean? That we're perfect?
Do you think Christians are better or worse than non-Christians when it comes to picking on people, or about the same?
What can we do to help people who get picked on?
At the end, musician Chris Tomlin talked about how he knew where God was leading him in life. What did he say about that?
Are you feeling any leading in what you want to do in life?

Transition to Scripture: use they're not hearing the voice of God. Or at least they're not recognizing it.

Scripture:

Turn to Genesis 2:7.
What's the raw material that went into making the first human?
Where does our life come from?
What does that mean to you? How does that affect your view of yourself?

Turn to Psalm 103. Somebody read verse 1.
Who is the Psalmist talking to? (his Soul)
What are some of the things that make up "all that is within you"?
What would it look like if you brought everything to God, the goofy, the great and the embarrassing and sinful?
Now read Psalm 103:2-5
What are we not supposed to forget?
What's a benefit?
What benefits are listed in these verses?
According to verse 5, does God grant all our desires?
Skip down and read Psalm 103:8-12
How is God described here?
What do these verses say about when we feel burdened with guilt about stuff in our past?
How far is the east from the west?
Somebody read Psalm 103:13-14
What "dust" is this referring to?
What is this saying about God's expectations? Doesn't God want us to be perfect?

Take Away: In groups right now, let's talk about who we are. Think about 3 things about yourself-not physical stuff like eye color-but your inner self. What do you care about, what do you think about, how do you feel, how do you relate to others.

In your groups go around and have everybody share those 3 things. Feel free to talk back, clarify or compare. God has made each one of us amazingly different and with different purposes corresponding to who God wants us to be. Don't let your past get in the way of what God has planned for your future because of how God has made you...
There's a marvelous promise in 2 Cor 5:17, let's read it.
Many of us have stuff in our past we're not proud of, but that doesn't need to clutter up our identity. God created us from the dust of the earth, and he has recreated us in Jesus. Whatever the past has been, it's gone. We have a glorious new future.

Closing Prayer: God, thank you for the things that we care about, the things we think about, how we feel and how we relate to others. Thank you for the ways that you have made all of us unique. God we pray that you will use all of the ways you have created us for your glory and for our joy. AMEN.

I Am: Questions of Faith

Drew Johnson's Blog (some thoughts to help you lead this conversation with your students)

Tonight we're talking about Finding, Living and Sharing Faith. Everyone is at a different place on their spiritual journey and tonight's video and discussion do a great job honoring each place on the journey without making it ok to stay where you are.

Tonight is going to be all about taking that next step when it comes to faith. Some of your students are going to have big questions about what it means to find real faith (it might even be kids that you thought had all of the answers). The video focuses on a kid who grew up in a Christian home and he is trying to differentiate what he believes from what his parents believe. Tons of students at Woodridge are going to go through this same process and you are going to be a key part of that in what God is doing in their hearts and minds as they go through this process. Make yourself a safe person to talk to about doubts and questions. Sometimes it seems like a student is rejecting God when in actuality they are truly finding God for the first time for themselves.

Other students are going to be really challenged to take what they say they believe and put it into action. Putting faith into action involves what we do and it involves what we don't do. The inevitable question is what should I do and what shouldn't I do? Students seem to want a list of behaviors and you could rattle it off to them but that actually won't be all that helpful. Help students generate their own list and challenge students to be on the side of doing what would honor God. Some students can go to a party where there is drinking and still honor God with their choices - others can't. Some can go to a sleep over after prom and still honor God with their choices - others can't. Until we learn what we can and cannot tolerate challenge students to stay far away from what doesn't please God and really close to what does please God. For example: skip the party this weekend and write a Bible verse on one of your school notebooks. In time God will show each individual follower how to behave and act but living out faith is not about tip-toeing around some magical line of appropriate or inappropriate behavior.

Finally, some of your students are going to be challenged to take steps when it comes to Sharing Faith. The curriculum focuses a lot on behaviors that share your faith, sort of the idea of "share the gospel-use words if necessary". I think that is totally true and a great point but for the students in our community it is a very tempting cope out. We can say, I want to share my faith through my actions, when what we mean is - I don't want to have to tell anyone I am a Christian. In our training's for our mission trips we have learned that very few students even have words for what God is doing in their life or how God can change the life of a friend. God wants us to have words for what God is doing (and actions too) so if a lot of people in your group are talking about this specific component of faith ask them to share with each other how they might talk about what they believe.

Goal: Growing in faith, taking a step toward finding/living/sharing faith

Interaction: What is something not very important that you have a strong opinion about? (Sports, Music, Movies, Cookies, etc.) [note: we want you to start a conversation where students might even argue about these admittedly unimportant things.

Introduction: It's interesting that we talk pretty freely about sports or music or movies or even cookies. But when it comes to life's most important questions, we get shy about that. Today's video deals with a "Question of Faith."

Prayer: God show me what you care about, make that what I care about. AMEN.

Media: Question of Faith (15 minutes)

Video Discussion:

The first part of the video was about finding your faith. Hunter was the first guy interviewed and he talked about growing up in a Christian home. He said, "It makes me question if it's my faith or my parents' faith." How can you tell the difference? When people take what they've learned from their parents and they make it their own, what happens? What changes? For Hunter, the problem was the suffering in the world. He just couldn't see how a powerful and loving God could allow suffering. Is that a problem for you? How do you handle it? Are there other issues that seem to be roadblocks to faith, issues that motivate people to ditch Christianity as they grow older? Do you think Christians should be asking the tough questions, or will those questions just lead us astray?

The second part of the video was about living your faith. There we met Schelbi, who found it hard to be the only Christian in her home. What was so hard about that situation? Schelbi mentioned her brother's comment that "Christians should be perfect in every single way." Do you get that same pressure from the non-Christians who are closest to you? Do you worry that one little sin might ruin your testimony? Is that a good thing to be worried about? David Nasser talked about the importance of living "in alignment" with "who we say we are." What did he mean by that? Is that a helpful idea?

The third part of the video was about sharing your faith. There we met Angie, who helped to start that club at school. What was that club trying to do? Was that a good idea? How do you think other people at that school responded? Do you think people tend to look at Christians as "condemning"? If so, why do they do that? If Jesus wandered into that high school, how do you think he would have treated those other groups in school? What would he say to them?

Transition to Scripture: The world that you are growing up in is full of different ideas about everything, including about that big question of the purpose of life. A lot of times what we believe about our purpose comes through not just in what we say but in what we do and don't do. 2 Corinthians 4 is this guy Paul writing about his own work, how he shares his faith with others in a world full of different options.

Scripture:

Turn to 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

What are the values that Paul observes as he conducts his ministry? How does he go about it? Would those principles work for us as we share our faith with others?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Who is "the god of this age"? (the devil)

Is that an appropriate description? Are people "blinded to the gospel?"

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Have you ever seen preachers who seemed to be preaching themselves rather than Jesus? In verse 5, what does Paul call himself (and his co-workers)? Is that an important attitude for us to have as we share our faith? Why?

Paul talks about the gospel as a light that shines in our hearts. How can we share our faith in such a way that the light can shine through? When Paul says, "We have this treasure in jars of clay" what does he mean?

Remember Schelbi from the video, living in a non-Christian family, trying hard to be perfect? How would verse 7 apply to her situation.

Take Away: We talked about three themes: Finding Faith, Living Faith and Sharing Faith. 2 Cor. 5:14-21 can help us understand all three of these themes. As I read through this passage, think about phrases and ideas that would fit with any of those three themes.

Finding Faith: Christ's love (14), Christ died for all (15), In Christ, everything is new (17), Because of Christ, God doesn't count our sin against us (19), Be reconciled to God-make peace with him (20), we find righteousness because Christ took our sin (21)

Living Faith: We don't live for ourselves (15), We live for the crucified and risen Savior (15), We're new creatures, not bound by the old ways (17)

Sharing Faith: We're compelled by Christ's love (14), God gives us the ministry of reconciliation (18, 19), We are his ambassadors (20)

Pick one of these 3 themes that God is really speaking to you about through 2 Cor 5:14-21 and write it down along with one of the phrases from 2 Cor 5:14-21 that stuck out to you. Let that play around in your soul for the next week. (Tell students that if they want to talk more about it you are available).

Closing Prayer: God bring me deeper into relationship with you. Help me find faith, live by faith and share who you are by what I say and how I act. AMEN.