

FIREPROOF: I want to encourage all couples from EVC to come to our movie night showing of Fireproof at 7:00PM on February 21st. We will provide popcorn and drinks and have a lively discussion following the movie. This is a great movie with a great message and it ties into the message we will be studying this week.

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verses: Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Discovery Bible Study Exercise:

In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Read Colossians 3:12
- Step #2: Re-write in your own words Colossians 3:12
- Step #3: Write down what you discover from this passage
- Step #4: What will you do to obey what this passage says?

Daily Meditation Readings:

Day 1 – Romans 6:1-23

Day 2 – Colossians 2:6-15

Day 3 – Colossians 3:1-19

Day 4 – 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Day 5 – 1 Peter 3:1-9

Lesson: A Grace Filled Home

1. According to Romans chapter 6, why should our lives and marriages change because of what Christ has done?

Because we have been given new life in Christ we are now dead to our sins. We do not need to nor should we live in sin any longer. We have been given an opportunity to live a new life in Christ and He will empower us and lead us to live a life of love according to His model and His Word. If we begin to live our lives like Jesus then our marriages will change and be filled with grace.

2. Read Colossians 3:12-15 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-6. What characteristics should be evident in Christian relationships?

As a Christian I should take on the characteristics of Christ. Jesus demonstrated a life of grace. He was always filled with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. I am called to the same life. Jesus showed us what love is in His life and He directs us to love in His Word. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, and it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres." Jesus lived out these principles and we should now live according to His example and God's Word.

3. Which of these same Christian characteristics do you struggle with most in your marriage relationship?

Encourage everyone open up and share struggles. I know in my life patients is always something I need to seek God's power in my life for. Pride, I believe is one of the biggest challenges that face us as we look to self and our own accomplishments and efforts and when we have pride we also find ourselves being self seeking. Grace is the opposite of self-seeking in my opinion.

4. How can you change and get in line with what God wants for your marriage and relationships?
Let's face it; we cannot change unless the Holy Spirit works in us. In fact we will not even acknowledge the need to change unless we ask God to reveal to us our weaknesses and anything in us that is not pleasing and in accordance to His will and plan for our character. To be imitators of Christ, we must call out to our God to show us and change us.