

CONNECTION

- Welcome back! Share one highlight from this past Christmas season.

OPENING PRAYER

- As we start 2023, that we would seek to grow in our love of Jesus and our understanding of God's word so that we would more boldly share and show the gospel in our CITY.

SCRIPTURE:

- Genesis 1:26 - 28; Philippians 1:3 - 6; Ephesians 5:25 - 27

CONVERSATIONS:

- Read Genesis 1:26 - 28.
 - What does verse 28 mean when it says that we are to 'rule' over the earth and 'subdue' it?
 - If we are created to work in God's creation, this means that each of us has a vocation - a calling from God - to use our skills and abilities (i.e. to work) for human flourishing. Your vocation is "the thing you were put on this earth to do. What you are good at. What you were made for."
 - How do you feel about this idea of a vocation (calling)?
 - How is a vocation larger than just a job or a career?
 - How could a person go about identifying their calling?
 - After creating Adam God said that it isn't good for man to be alone so he created Eve to be "a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18) The word 'helper' means 'partner' - an equal who comes alongside to achieve a goal. Healthy marriages are built around a calling.
 - Is this a new idea for you? What does or could a 'calling' in a marriage look like?
 - Have you seen this in someone else's marriage? If you are married, are you able to articulate a calling / vision for your marriage?
 - What are the challenges and benefits of having a calling / vision for your marriage?

- Read Philippians 1:6. Sanctification is the life-long process of becoming more like Jesus. It happens by the work of the Holy Spirit in our life as we walk together in 'spiritual friendship' with others.
 - What is 'spiritual friendship'? How would 'spiritual friendship' go deeper than just a Community Group meeting?
- Read Ephesians 5:25 - 27. One of the main purposes of marriage is to accomplish the work of sanctification in your life. (Sounds fun, doesn't it?)
 - How does marriage reveal to a person their sinfulness?
 - How can marriage be a source of strength and encouragement in your walk of faith?
 - What if you and your spouses are at different places spiritually – then what?
 - How could this idea be abused or misused in a marriage?
- Sanctification is a long process. Share one story or experience how a spiritual friendship or your spouse or maybe just a friend, has helped you grow in your relationship with Christ.

RIDGE CHURCH REMINDERS:

- Essentials Classes start Sunday Jan 15th | 9am | 6 weeks
- Bible in One Year | Join us! (Daily links on website)
- Seniors' Social Thurs Jan 19th

PRAYER:

- PRAY that, if possible, as far as it depends on us , we would live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:18)



- PRAY that God would strengthen our marriages as we seek to follow Him.
- PRAY Pray for the nominating committee as they discern who God would have them approach with a view to serving on the Board.
- PRAY for the Essential classes and Community Groups starting this week.
- PRAY that our Seniors would be blessed by the Seniors' social this week.