

# REDROCKS

[red•räks]

noun

1 Defining who we are.

2 Authenticity, Humility,  
Unity, and Generosity.

## WEEK 2 • GROUP GUIDE • MESSAGE BY CHAD BRUEGMAN

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

Think about your experiences with school pictures and family photos over your lifetime. Looking back, is there a particular stage of life where you wish you could have a redo?

### SHARE

Welcome to our ongoing teaching Series called “Red Rocks.”

What is Red Rocks Church? What does God say a church should be doing? Do we look like the type of church Jesus spoke about? If you are new to following God, how do you know the church you are a part of is a healthy church? During this series, we are going to explore what God says about our purpose and this beautifully-messy community of people that make up the church.

Jesus spoke a bold truth to his disciples that only later would they come to truly understand. In Matthew Jesus said, “...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Jesus is the one who is building the church, he is at the head and we all play a part in the functioning body of Christ. The church is not a building, but a body of believers that are designed to move gracefully together, reaching out to those far from God while at the same time encouraging and building up one another in the process. This church Jesus spoke of is an unstoppable force that moves outward in a powerful way, so much so that not even “the gates of Hades” can overcome it. The church is the hope of the world, a shining city on the hill, and we are not to be afraid or ashamed of the truth.

The church is to be marked by authenticity, humility, unity and generosity. By this those far from God will see a light in the darkness, a place where the prodigal can call home.

How would you define each of the following as it pertains to a healthy church?

Authenticity, humility, unity, generosity



## GROW

In this week's message, Chad talked about being authentic and honest with God. Isn't it strange that we believe God is omniscient, meaning that He is "all knowing," yet we sometimes think that we can hide how we think or feel from him? God already knows our hearts and that should give us confidence to approach Him with honesty. There is nothing that is hidden from our loving God. Last week, we read the first section of the story of the prodigal son. This week let's take a look at the Father's heart toward the older brother.

**Let's read Luke 15:1-32**

**Did the father pursue the older brother?**

**Why do you think the older brother wanted to vent to his father?**

In L. Richard's The Teacher's Commentary we are given some insight into the anger of the older brother:

But there was an older son, who represents the Pharisees, standing by. This son was unmoved by his brother's return. He was angry, and he criticized his father (vv. 25–30). In his anger the elder brother refused the love the father offered him—even though the father went out to entreat the angry son to attend the feast.

The story raises a vital question. Whose character do we bear? The father's, whose love overcame and made a way for the dead to live again? Or the elder son's, whose anger at love and at forgiveness so blinded him that he could not even see that he needed forgiveness too?

How exciting that when we have experienced the Father's love, we are invited to be like Him, freed forever from the cold self-centeredness that cuts people off from one another and from God.

**Do you think there is a link here between self-centeredness and the unforgiving heart of the older brother? Why?**

## MOVE

At Red Rocks Church, we want to be an authentic body of Christ; meaning we desire to be an honest church. Because of the freeing nature of the Gospel, we are free to have an authentic dialogue with God and each other. The Gospel frees us up to be open about our struggles and to receive empathy, support, and accountability from a group of people who believe the same. If we are going to be a church that is a "porch for the prodigal," as Chad preached this week, we need to be an authentic body that is committed to being honest and committed to speaking biblical truth in love wrapped in grace. No one understood the value of authenticity better than Paul as we read in Romans.



### **Romans 7:14-25**

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Can you relate to the spiritual struggle Paul is talking about? What does this tell you about Paul?

Why do you think Paul wasn't concerned with what people thought about him?

Who is the only one who delivers us and sets us free according to scripture?

### **PRAY**

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

Consider sharing a struggle you might be dealing with and let's sincerely pray for one another. If you are not ready to share, don't feel the pressure to say something, only share if you are ready to.

### **TO GO**

Jesus said that if we are to follow him, there is something that He has planned for us to do. Let's remember this verse, because it is easy for all of us to forget sometimes:

**Zephaniah 3:17**

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save: he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

