

REDROCKS

[red•räks]

noun

1 Defining who we are.

2 Authenticity, Humility,
Unity, and Generosity.

WEEK 4 • GROUP GUIDE • MESSAGE BY CHAD BRUEGMAN

START

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

Are you the type of person who likes to keep score in life? (Sales, Comparison, Achievements, Grades, Sports, Fantasy Football, etc.) If so, why do you think you like to keep score?

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.

So far in this series, we have talked about being a front porch for prodigals, the importance of authenticity, and learning to live a life of humility. This week, we are going to move from the front porch to the back yard and talk about the value of unity. As we dive into the value of unity, let's start with talking about the disunity that was prevalent in Jesus' day. In fact, if you look closely at the story of the prodigal son, you will realize this is the third parable Jesus told to a large group of people. Jesus was not only speaking about the heart of God for those who



were lost and felt like outsiders, but was specifically speaking to the religious people of the day...the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

Why do you think Jesus told stories about a lost sheep, lost coin and a lost son to the Pharisees?

Why do you think the Pharisees were so agitated with Jesus?

Let's Read Luke 15:25-32

If you have been a Christ-follower for a few years, can you relate to the feelings of the older brother in the story? If so, how?

Do you think there were some similarities between the Pharisees and the older brother? If so, what?

What was the first thing the father said to his older son after he complained? Do you think that these two words are important?

GROW

The older brother in the story was doing some spiritual scorekeeping in the story of the prodigal son. When we keep score in a spiritual sense, we are actually counting and keeping a record. This is why the older brother was recalling his past endeavors with his father and pointing out the fact that he never disobeyed. The older brother believed that his actions deserved payback, that he had earned his own party and the younger brother did not deserve one. C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity* sums up what humility is by saying:

Let's read I Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, kind, rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. Love doesn't envy or boast, it's not proud, rude, self-seeking or easily angered and doesn't keep a record of wrong. Love never fails. God wins.

How do you see the father demonstrate love to the younger son?

How do you see the father demonstrate love to the older son?

MOVE

At Red Rocks Church, we want to be marked by authenticity, humility and unity. In a healthy church body, we must purposely put aside our personal preferences and humbly work together as a team. We make every effort to keep unified, building each other up, not allowing division to hinder the mission of the church, while becoming mature and striving to be more like Jesus.



Let's read:

1 Corinthians 1:10

John 17:23

1 Peter 3:8

Ephesians 4:11-13

What is one thing that stands out to you in these verses?

Is there a part you can play this week that will help bring unity and build up the body of Christ?

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.

TO GO

Psalm 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.

