



The Essentials | Ronnie Johnson | 4.26.20
Weekly Study

START

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

Do you love working from home or would you rather be in the office? Is there a balance of both that you like best?

SHARE

Welcome to Week Two of Take-Home Church. As you know, this year, we have been getting serious about equipping the church with the necessary tools to follow Jesus throughout the week. Christianity is not about creating churchgoers; it's about building Jesus followers, and the calling of Jesus is to follow him in every part and every hour of our lives!

God has been preparing us for this time all year. These days, we aren't just taking our faith home, we are taking church home. And we are ready for it!

For the next several weeks, we are going to talk about how to be the church all week long. This week, Ronnie continued our series by talking about the essentials of our faith. However, these are trying times for everyone. So, before we go any further, take some time to check-in with your group by having everyone answer these questions:

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

What have you learned about God during this time?

What was the most challenging part of your week? What was the best part of your week?

What are you most looking forward to doing once the shelter-in-place order is lifted?

G R O W

Read Genesis 3:1-12

What do you know about this passage of Scripture? Where does it fit into the big story of the Bible?

This pandemic has brought up a lot of questions in all of our lives. In order to help distance ourselves, Officials all over the world are trying to decide what is essential and what is non-essential. As followers of Jesus, this is an excellent opportunity to do the same thing with our lives. **What does the Bible say about our lives? According to Scripture, what is essential? What is absolutely necessary in our lives?**

As Ronnie reminded us this week, it is most important to remember who God is and who God created us to be. One of the biggest mistake's humans make, is wrapping our identity up in what we do, instead of who we are. When we get that wrong, things fall apart very quickly.

If you've been feeling that way, don't worry, you are in good company. This problem dates back to Adam and Eve in the Garden. God created the man and the woman to be in perfect harmony with Him, with each other, and with creation. But the serpent was able to slither in and whisper a lie into their ears, convincing them that they aren't enough unless they eat the fruit and become "like God."

Adam and Eve made the trade. They decided to live by their own standards of morality instead of following God's design, and the results are devastating. Humans lose sight of what is essential, and things spiral out of control. Within one generation, humans are already competing and killing each other out of jealousy.

Fortunately, the story doesn't end with Adam and Eve. Jesus came to earth to put back together what Adam messed up. Now, the only essential thing we have to do is to set our eyes on Jesus and allow everything else to flow from there!

But this isn't easy. Ever since Adam and Eve fell for the lie in the Garden, humans have struggled to place their identity in who they are, deciding instead to find it in what they do. Usually, life is so full that we never really stop to think about it. We just keep moving forward, inventing ways to stay busy, and convince ourselves all is well. But this quarantine has given us all an opportunity to slow down and reassess what is essential in our lives!

**Do you ever find yourself placing your identity in what you do instead of who you are?
Why do you think you do that?**

What things do you find yourself placing your identity in (job, family, sports, followers, house, intellect, etc.)?

M O V E

Read John 6:28-29

What stuck out to you about this verse?

In this passage, the disciples ask Jesus the most important question they can think of: "what must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (John 6:28).

They were expecting a long checklist to get started on, but Jesus answered: "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." Instead of a long list, they get one task: Put your faith in Jesus!

During this time of quarantine, we have to make sure we get the order correct. When we try to perform well on our own merit, we will miss the mark every time. We may be able to perform for a while, but eventually, we will grow tired and run out of steam.

However, if we learn to abide in Jesus, remembering who we are in Christ, we will find a supernatural strength to break addictions, overcome anxiety, and love others well. Remember, love, joy, and peace are Fruit of The Spirit. The Holy Spirit will produce fruit in our lives when we learn to stay rooted in Him. As Ronnie reminded us this week, "right believing will produce right living" because good behavior is a byproduct of faith, not the other way around.

What does it look like for you to abide in Jesus this week? What is one practical way you can do that?

How has abiding in Jesus looked differently for you during this quarantine? What have you learned through this experience that you can carry with you into the future?

Take-Home Assignment: ABIDE

In order to practice abiding in Jesus this week, let's meditate on John 15:4 every day: Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

Step 1: Read John 15:4 every morning

Step 2: Memorize it

Step 3: Whenever you find yourself straying from God, recite it back to yourself

Step 4: Repeat

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time, sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

T O G O

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Galatians 5:22-23

