

LENT

Week 1 | February 21 Sermon

Community:

Welcome to community. Community isn't just a nice option; it's a need—like food, water and shelter.

God created in us a need for him and for other people. We're relational beings because he is a relational being. Our community with others becomes the real-world setting where we practice the love that relationship with God produces in us.

[He uses other people to grow us, and he uses us to grow other people.]

You are here for a reason. God is writing a story and this group—each one of you—are a part of it.

To get the most out of this group experience, you really just need to do 3 things:

1. SHOW UP

2. JOIN IN

3. BE REAL



More on these in the coming weeks!

Sanctuary Discussion Questions:

What resonated with you about the message you heard today?

How does this statement challenge you - "Many of us have asked God into our heart, but are we willing to follow Christ into God's heart on full display with the cross?"

After spending some time thinking on the horrors of the cross, how does it change our daily thoughts and actions? Is there anything specific that is catching your attention?

How will I 'deny myself and take up *my* cross' to follow Jesus to the cross this Lenten season?

What distractions will I reduce or remove from my life in order to heartfully, soulfully, and mindfully journey with Jesus to the cross in this Lenten season?"

Auditorium Discussion Questions:

If you've participated in Lent in your own spiritual journey, will you share your own experiences? Please feel free to be honest.

Tom asked about our willingness to walk with Jesus in the Lenten season. What are some of the things that might be affecting your "willingness" either positively or negatively?

We've been talking a lot about distractions in this last series. Have you made any attempts to address things that might be distracting you from investing spiritually in seeking after Jesus and God's Kingdom?

The action questions for Lent ask us to "reduce" or "remove" distractions in order to make room for a journey with Jesus to the cross. Lent has traditionally been a time of "fasting" or "giving something up." Is it possible that we miss the true motivation for this? How might my motivation affect the spiritual outcome?

How do we interpret Jesus' requisite that we "deny ourselves" and "take up our cross"? What does that mean to you in consideration of this season of Lent and the encouragement to "walk with Jesus" to the cross?