

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW
2 TIMOTHY 2: 8 - 13

OPENING

- What is it like to view life through the eyes of a child?
- Depending on your stage of life, think of reading a Bible story to a child or praying with them. What is it like? How does their innocence impact their understanding? Is it different than yours? Why?

OBSERVATIONS FROM SUNDAY'S TEACHING

- Pastor Dave referred to Martin Luther King's famous speech and then said that Ellerslie also has a dream:

Our church has a dream:

- That all generations can worship freely and enthusiastically from the heart and share together the vision of resourcing the next generation for Jesus
 - That we would be the go-to place of worship for young families in SW Edmonton
 - That our building would be so full of children that we won't be able to turn around without bumping into them
 - That everyone will be inviting people to church because of the joy and excitement
 - That everyone would have at least one meaningful relationship and we would be defined by our love for one another
 - That we would all work together for tomorrow
- Talk about this dream. What parts do you like? What about the others? What is uncomfortable about it? How will you deal with the discomfort?

LOOKING THROUGH THE TEXT

- The experience of Jesus, Remember me! (v. 8). Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Man. He becomes a lens that we see life through. How does looking at life through the lens of Jesus affect you? Does it offer clarity or something else? Why?
- Compare Romans 1:3, 4 to 1 Timothy 2:8. They are very similar, but a bit different. How are they the same? Or different?
Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to the Gospel (v. 8)

Concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared with power to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:3, 4)
- How important is the resurrection? How does it impact yesterday, today and tomorrow? Does one stand out as more important? Why?

- Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-33 and 12:9. When Paul speaks about hardship and suffering he speaks from experience. He could have stopped this. Why didn't he? What would you have done? Why did Paul choose to act the way he did? What can we learn from that?
- Some people find verse 12b troubling. Why?
 - "If we deny Him, He also will deny us;" (12b)
- "If" is always an interesting word. What is the first if statement in this series of "ifs"? All the statements below are based on the answer to this first if. If the first statement is true, then the conclusion is true, "we shall also live with Him."
- The last statement is also important. Jesus Christ's faithfulness is not based on anything we do, it is based on who He is, His character. Jesus is faithful in spite of anything all of us might do. We may (will) have temporary failures, but Jesus is absolutely faithful.
- What does verse 12b mean considering this? Who has died and who has denied? Where do you fit in?
- In the sermon, Pastor Dave made this statement, "The faithfulness of Jesus is unforgettable comfort to all who suffer for the sake of the Gospel." The word remember in verse 8 means to continuously remember. How does this affect our lens on life?

LIVING IT OUT

- The four if statements in verses 11 to 13 can be described as a warning statement. Jesus will give us exactly what we want. What does it mean for someone to deny Jesus? What choice is someone making? Can you impact that choice?
- What impact can you have with people close to you to impact their choices and decisions? Do you? How can you choose between looking at life through the lens of the lion's den or the lens of Christ?

PRAYER (consider breaking up into small groups of 3 or 4, either as couples, or as just men and just women)

- Pray for our church. First thank God for faithful people that are helping as we walk through a difficult situation. Pray for people that are hurting from this. Pray that God would help us to entrust to faithful people.
- Who can you pray for regarding life's choices? Ask God to direct you to talk with people in a productive way.