

New Wine

DISCOVERING THE MANY FLAVORS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH



SERIES OVERVIEW: New Wine

"Evangelical Spirituality"

Preacher: Pastor Walt Quick

February 24 , 2019

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

[Discipleship Resources](#)

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

QUESTIONS?

Email Alison

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (opening, sermon content questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God's People**, connecting to **God Personally**, and connecting to **God's Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

WEEKLY CHECK IN

Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a **next step or application** challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time Together on a less intense question.

1. What are some of the circles you live in and work in outside of church? What kind of relationships do you have with those people?
2. To how many of those people have you self-identified as a Christian?

SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: "Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?" Or, "What stood out to you from the Pastor's sermon?"

1. Choose one or two of these to discuss to begin your discussion on the Evangelical Tradition: What is your definition or view of "evangelical"? When you hear the word "evangelical," what assumptions come to your mind? What has been your past experience with the Christian evangelical tradition?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"I'm a pastor of a church called Highrock, which is part of a denomination called the Evangelical Covenant Church."*
2. When you have spoken up about your faith, what kinds of responses do you get? How do those responses impact your willingness to speak?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"But I know that when that word comes up for them, they are immediately thinking of the angry protestors, the judgmental neighbors or family members, and the political power grabs. If they are part of the LGBTQ community, that's complicated. If they are an immigrant, that's complicated. And I just feel bad. More often than not, even in these introductory conversations, these are people that I enjoy and that I want to get to know. But already there is something super messy about our dynamic simply because I identify as an evangelical."*
3. What ways have you found to communicate to your friend(s) that you are a Christian or go to an evangelical church in a way that won't automatically break trust and create distance?
4. When you listened to the story about our Swedish heritage and their love for the Bible, what intrigued you? What challenged you? How similar is your way of reading and studying the Scriptures and your response to it?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"And as these women and men gathered together and opened up the Bible, the Word of God spoke into their lives. Their hearts were opened to the good news- that the God who created them loved them, that God saw them trapped by sin and death and fear, and that he sent his Son into the world to save them through his life, death, and resurrection. They weren't saved because of where they were born or what they did, but simply by receiving this gift. (Romans 10:10-11) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." Even though they came under intense pressure from the state to stop what they were doing they kept at it, they kept meeting and studying the Bible together, even when police were banging on their door and telling them to stop! They couldn't get enough of what they were experiencing when they read the Scriptures together. The joy and hope and goodness of God was leaping off the pages, and they were being transformed every time they gathered!"*
5. How does your definition of evangelical (given earlier) square with five characteristics Pastor Walt mentioned? Which one(s) do most readily embrace and practice? Which one(s) do you struggle to engage with?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *Evangelicalism, as it came to be known, would be marked by five characteristics:*
 - *An affirmation of the centrality of the Bible*
 - *A focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus*
 - *A belief in the necessity of personal repentance and faith*
 - *A commitment to social justice*
 - *A desire to engage with secular culture through conversation**These were women and men who loved the Bible, loved Jesus, desired to follow Him personally, and to love their neighbors as themselves. They believed that the good news of Jesus wasn't just for them, but it was for the whole world! And so they shared their faith in word and deed.*
6. How did you learn to read or study the Bible? What in Pastor Walt's description below would impact or change how you read the Bible?

- a. **Sermon Reference:** *I actually began to learn how to read the Bible. It turns out that a collection of books written thousands of years ago on the other side of the world isn't something I can just flip open and expect to wow me. I needed to learn about the larger story, about the context and genres of each section, how to read it in a way that honored the text and didn't just demand that it give me dating advice, which is what I was looking for most of the time. But when I did learn- it changed my whole life.*
7. Listen to Pastor Walt's questions: Has our love for Scripture also diminished? Have we wondered if it really does hold good news for us and our world? How do you answer these for yourself?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *So what are we doing with what we have? With this access that we have been entrusted with? Are we taking advantage of it? Are we learning how to study the Word and apply it to our lives? To savor this good news? Or are we letting it go by the wayside for one reason or the other? As we have collectively struggled with the role of Evangelicals in our society, has our love for Scripture also diminished? Have we wondered if it really does hold good news for us and our world?*
8. When you hear the word "fundamentalism," what images and attitudes come to mind? How has fundamentalism been a part of your religious upbringing? Or what experiences have you had with fundamentalism?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *In the early 20th century there was another movement that came out of evangelicalism which you may have heard of -- fundamentalism. Evangelicals wanted to bless their neighbors with the good news, but fundamentalists were concerned about liberal theology and the influence of secular culture. They were fearful and separatist, not at all like what evangelicalism was originally about. But over time this movement grew and eventually got folded back in to mainstream evangelicalism, which is why evangelicals have the reputation that we do now.*
9. How does the love of God for you and the world enable you to perceive people beyond the surface, able to recognize the common human longings and needs? How does this help motivate you to risk sharing your faith?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *If this is the effect that the words of my earthly father has, how much greater is the effect of the words of our heavenly Father? Brothers and sisters, we live in a world filled with hurting people. People who wonder if they are loved and valued, people who are longing for hope in the midst of despair, people who are staring sickness and injustice and death in the face and wondering, and asking is this it? We see these people every day on our commutes and in our offices, some of them we know really well. And we have the words that they need to hear, words that speak to the reality of a God who loves them, who is with them, and who desires relationship with them. ... He chose us to be the people who communicate this good news to the world.*

APPLICATION/S

1. In this sermon and study, where are you personally not savoring this Good News or experiencing the fruit of the Holy Spirit? How is God inviting you to examine your life?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *It is the fruit of Spirit of God at work in our lives, that brings about this fragrant aroma. Ways that we are demonstrating love, joy and peace instead of fear, judgment and anxiety. If we are not personally responding to God, if we don't first savor the good news ourselves, then we won't have anything worth sharing.*
2. How are you cultivating a life in which you are regularly engaging the Bible? What can you share with the group as your next step to grow in this area?
- a. **Resource:** If you're looking for a daily devotional, Bible reading plan, and/or Bible commentaries to help you engage with the Bible, see Dave's helpful Blog post on [reading God's Word](#).

- b. **Sermon Reference:** *How are you cultivating a life in which you are regularly engaging the Bible? Predictable patterns that you can build into your life where you are hearing or reading Scripture, praying through it, or studying it with your friends in a small group.*

CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

RESOURCES

SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one way to study scripture is through using the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group you can briefly talk over some of the points and then have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophesy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?
- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?
- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?

READING THE BIBLE

[Pastor Dave has provided a few suggestions](#) for Bible reading plans, daily devotionals, and Bible commentaries to help you understand God’s Word as you familiarize yourself with it.