



Week 6 | Rise | April 9

Key Focus: Christians should work differently.

Opening Up:

Tell the group about one of your most interesting relatives.

As a child when did you first notice that your family was different from other families. What did you notice?

How have you ever intentionally tried to be "different" in your life?

How has your view of "difference" changed over time? Is there a "difference" in your life now that you used to feel shame over, but you now feel pride about?

Reference: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Discuss:

1. In 4:12 Paul talks about walking properly. Has practicing your difference as a Christian ever been hard for you? (Or, When has "walking properly" been difficult for you relationally?)
2. Read Acts 2:42-47. What can we learn about the familial love of God's family in this early reaction to the gospel? What gets in the way of gospel shaped familial love for churches today?
3. Have you ever thought of your job as ministry or mission?
4. Dorothy Sayers says, "the only Christian work is good work well done." How does working for God and the love others change how you view your current job? (Work is not always fun, but it can always be meaningful.)
5. In 4:11-12 Paul says your work is your witness. How can you be a good witness in your work?
6. In 4:12 we are told to be dependent on no one. In 2 Thessalonians 3:10 there is a warning about a generosity ministry that has enabled bad behavior. Sometimes our helping gets in the way. How can our helping hurt?
7. In Galatians 6:2 we are told that burden bearing fulfills the law of Christ. Each person in the church is to be working not only for themselves, but also for the common good of the church community. Have you ever thought of your work as a way to help carry the burdens of others? For example, there are numerous hours of counsel and care that happen every week. Those hours of care could not happen if everyone was not caring some of that load.
8. How does having the church as a safety net for life's trips and falls bring you emotional security?
9. What would life be like if you did not have the family of God to support you?
10. Pray.