

the HOME SHEET

this week's topic:

WONDERFUL JOYOUS DAY FOR ALL
AN UPSIDE-DOWN DICHOTOMY

I. CHECK-IN

- Check-in with each other. How is life? What is happening? How is everyone doing?
- Check in about last week's challenge: *While we live in the "between times," what can you do to help people experience heaven here and now?*

V. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. CHALLENGE

This week, challenge yourself to live your life in a way that helps others embrace and experience the Kingdom of God.

Be prepared to share about this next week.

II. SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-12: In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said: The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.' John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husk is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire than can't be put out."

III. DISCUSSION

"In the ancient world, power was concentrated in central cities, where the temples and imperial buildings witnessed to the power of the current regime. In the center were located the bureaucracies that collected tribute and other direct and indirect taxes. As a general rule, if people wanted to get something or get something done, they would travel to a center city." -William Herzog II

- Have you ever lived in a small town? How was your experience similar to this quote by William Herzog II? What's happening in the scripture above? Does it follow this idea or is the opposite happening?
- Why did the Pharisees and Sadducees go see John the Baptist in the Wilderness? How does John respond?
- John challenges people to repent because the Kingdom of Heaven is near. How does this tie into our mission at Mid City Church?
- What obstacles keep you from sharing the good news of Jesus with others? How can the story of John the Baptist inspire us to share?

MID CITY CHURCH
WONDERFUL
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