

WEEKLY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	
April 2024	
21st	Bless
This week we are covering the first three letters of the acronym, "BLESS"-- Begin with prayer, Listen, Eat together.	
1) Can you share a story of someone who has prayed for you in the past?	
* Think of praying to be a "blessing" in the life of specific people. Make a short list: 3 fellow believers you would like influence in their Christian walk, and 3 people outside of the faith who you would like to influence for Christ.	
2) Listening is the toughest communication skill to practice! Share one thing you can work on to become a better listener.	
3) Talk about one of the most memorable meals you have eaten with others.	
* How can you be more intentional about "eating together" as a way of blessing the people in your circles of influence?	
* Make a plan to eat together with someone and put it on your calendar.	
14th	Psalm 111 & 112
1) Can you share an instance of where you were blessed by God, and how that helped you to be or to do what God designed you to be/do?	Bless
2) How have you interpreted the phrase "the fear of the Lord"? Has it generally been a negative or a positive interpretation? Have your thoughts on it changed over time? If so, how?	
3) Ps 112 describes how injustice, fear and stinginess can get in the way of our blessing others. Have you experienced obstacles when you've thought about, or tried to bless someone? Where does that come from? How can you begin to strategize about how to take steps forward in this area?	
7th	Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 5
1) Share the story of someone "blessing" you--it could be a one-time encounter, or a long-term influence.	Bless
2) When God "blesses" something He empowers or enables it to be what He designed it to be, or do what He designed it to do.	
* List some examples of things in creation that do what they are designed to do. (the sun, water, animals, plants?)	
* Think about God's design for humans, for man and woman. List things that God designed us to be, and things He designed us to do.	
3) When you think of "blessing" someone, how are you helping them to be or do what God designed them to be or do? Give examples.	
March 2024	
31st	Safe Inheritance 1 Peter 1:3-5
1) In 1 Peter 1:4, the writer announces that because Jesus rose from the dead, we who believe in Him have " <i>an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.</i> "	Easter - Become
* Think about life in this world. List all the things that are perishing (dying), spoiling, or fading	
* Use your imagination: what will life be like in a new world in which nothing is touched by death, stained by evil, or affected by the passing of time?	
2) How does knowing with absolute certainty that we will receive this inheritance in heaven change the way we face the challenges of life everyday? Give some specific examples.	
24th	Mission Impossible? : Genesis 1

1) When you think of a "perfect world" what comes to mind? Describe your vision of a perfect world.	Become
2) Genesis 1 and 2 are the opening chapters of a story with amazing potential. Human beings are given the incredible job of representing God Himself and carrying on the work of caring for and managing His world. Use your imagination: What might the world have been like if humans had chosen to trust God and fulfill the role He had give them? Culture? Communities? Families? What about nature? Plants? Animals? Agriculture? Wilderness? ...	
3) How does knowing that the "new heaven and new earth" is not so much a perfect world, but a new beginning to a wonderful story, change the way you think about heaven?	
17th	Starting Point: 2 Peter 1:3-11
1) What do you think of the idea that we work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus? Is that comforting or not to you? Why?	Become
2) Of the list of things Peter tells us to "add extravagantly" to our faith (goodness, knowledge, self-control (etc.)), which one kind of "comes naturally" to you? What one do you struggle with?	
3) Becoming the person we ought to be is a lifelong process. We won't ever get there, but Jesus says we have "everything we need" to keep moving forward. How do you feel about such a lifelong journey? How do we stay actively engaged for such a long time?	
10th	Kyrie Eleison: Psalm 51
1) Have you ever been in a position where you felt your heart "crushed" by your sin? What do you remember about it? Was it an overall positive or negative experience?	Become
2) Do you ever avoid confessing sin to God? Why or why not?	
3) How can we avoid the trap of being lax about our sin by thinking God will always forgive us?	
3rd	Job Description: Genesis 1:26-28
1) What normally comes to mind for you when you think of human beings being made "in the image of God"?	Become
2) Genesis 1:26-28 connects the image of God with the job description of <i>ruling</i> and <i>subduing</i> .	
* Are these concepts positive or negative in your mind? In our culture?	
* How is ruling a picture of the image of God? Think about the context of Genesis 1.	
* How does God's activity in Genesis 1 help define the image of God job description?	
3) Our job description is to represent God by engaging with and managing His world to bring order out of chaos, to create beauty, and to make a way for life to flourish.	
* Think about your everyday tasks. How can they be a fulfilment of God's image in you?	
February 2024	
25th	It's Not Just A List: Romans 16
1) Share a story of someone who was an encouragement to you early in your relationship with Christ.	Belong
2) The goal this week is to create a list of people who God has put in your life along the way as a source of help and encouragement. Start writing the list. If you are in a group, go around sharing names and brief explanations as you write your lists.	
3) Do you need some folks in your life right now to encourage you? What could you do to try to find them? What could you do to be a that person for someone else?	
18th	Home, Family & Belonging: various

1) Do a word association: <i>when you hear the word "family" what do you think of?</i> Start with single words, then tell stories.	Belong
2) <i>What does it mean to you that Jesus "is not ashamed" to call us brothers or sisters?</i> Hebrews 2:10-12	
3) <i>Where do you experience a sense of family and belonging as part of Meadow Springs (or your own church)?</i>	
4) Read Hebrews 10:24-25. <i>What are some practical ways in which you can help others experience belonging as part of our church family?</i>	
11th	The Family of God: Psalm 95:7
1) What do you think about the two aspects of worship (make a joyful noise/bow down in worship) noted in Psalm 95? Do you favor one or the other? Why or why not?	Belong
2) The Psalm mentions praising God as King and Creator. What other aspects of God do you routinely praise? Why?	
3) Do you think you will read this Psalm before your quiet time during Lent? Why or why not?	
4th	Identity Crisis: 1 Chronicles 1-9
1) Share a story about one of your relatives when you were growing up. What kind of relationships did you have with your extended family? How about now?	Belong
2) Chronicles was written to a remnant of Jewish people who were not sure they any longer had a place in God's plan. How does the long list of names that begins 1 Chronicles, essentially spanning the entire history of the Old Testament, help to answer their uncertainty?	
3) How important do you think it is that we have a sense of identity that is rooted in belonging to God? Why? What difference does it make in our lives?	
January 2024	
21st	Introduction to 2024
1) Looking back at 2023, what are some ways in which you saw God clearly working in your life, family, friends, church?	
2) Looking forward in 2024, what are some areas in which you are trusting God to be at work this year?	
3) Some of the most seemingly impossible areas of change are in our own personal character and habits. In what area of your life do you need to believe that "nothing is impossible with God"?	