

Rescue Story - Sept 27th - Rescued From Addiction - Justin Sternberg

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

Romans 8:26-28 NIV
Genesis 50:20 NIV
Isaiah 41:9-10 NLT
1 Corinthians 6:18 NLT
John 8:3-8 NLT
John 3:17 NIV
John 8:7b-11 NLT
Matthew 11:28-30 NIV
1 Corinthians 10:12
Matthew 12:43-45 NLT
Philippians 1:6 NLT
Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV
Isaiah 1:18 NLT

Start reading

John 8:3 - 11

As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Can you relate to any of the people who shared their rescue story in the video on Sunday?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 8:26 - 28 NIV. How is it possible God can work for the good through even the horrors of addiction? Have you ever seen first hand, either in your life or the lives of family or friends, God work things for good through some kind of addiction?
- What does the word "redemption" mean to you? Do you believe you deserve redemption personally? Do you believe that there is anyone beyond redemption?
- Read John 8:3 - 11. What did Jesus mean when He said, "let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone"? Why is there no condemnation with Jesus? Like the pharisees in that story, in what ways have you (maybe even unknowingly) condemned others, including those in addiction? What did Jesus mean when He said, "Go and sin no more"?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- You might not consider yourself an addict, but the basis of Celebrate Recovery is that EVERYONE has a hurt, habit, or hangup. That means that everyone has something in their life that they need recovery from. If you can identify something within yourself, share with the group if you feel comfortable. Why is surrender the key first step in recovery? Why is surrendering so hard to do?
- Are you personally struggling with secret addiction? (you may not be willing to answer this in group, but you should definitely answer it)
- What are some tools/resources you have found for addressing your addictions, past or present?
- If you think of addiction as anything that takes over your thoughts, actions, and emotions to the point that God and obedience to Him are replaced by that 'thing', what safeguards (including participating in CR) can you put in place to help prevent you from falling into the addiction trap? Identify areas in your life where these safeguards could be beneficial and take steps to put them in place.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you are struggling with an addiction please tell someone and start your road to recovery. Everyone in a Small Group should at some point attend a Friday night for Celebrate Recovery. Commit to a Friday night and attend with your group.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- This is the serenity prayer that is prayed at Celebrate Recovery. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next. Amen"

Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.



Celebrate Recovery 12 Steps and Biblical Comparisons

1. We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. Romans 7:18 NIV

2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 NIV

3. We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1 NIV

4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Lamentations 3:40 NIV

5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16a NIV

6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. James 4:10 NIV

7. We humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 NIV

8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 NIV

9. We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

10. We continue to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 1 Corinthians 10:12

11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us, and power to carry that out.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16a NIV

12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs.

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore them gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Galatians 6:1 NIV