

Tree of Life “Faithfulness”- Jim Burgen

June 3-4, 2017

Community:

1. With Summer quickly approaching, do you have anything exciting planned for this Summer? What are some activities you hope to partake in this Summer?
2. When you hear the word “faithfulness” what comes to mind? Who are the people in your life that you have seen faithfulness in?

Core:

1. Do you ever find yourself having trouble hearing from God? What do you think is getting in the way of you hearing from God? Do you think you are earnestly listening for Him? How have you heard God speak to you in the past?
2. **Read Genesis 1:1-4.** How do you think this passage could speak of God’s love for you? Have you ever felt or are you feeling like your life is void or full of chaos and darkness? What does this passage teach us about what God could do when those elements are present?
3. **Read Luke 8:4-15.** Which soil do you identify with most in this current season of your life? Do you feel like there is anything clinging to your life or anything that you are clinging to that God never intended to be there? If so, what is it and how do you see it affecting your life?
4. Think about the dilemma exercise that Jim walked through on stage where the man had two people pulling on his arms. What is a dilemma that you are wrestling with in your life? What is the big want or goal that you desire to come out of this dilemma?
5. With your dilemma in mind, what are the positive messages steering you towards achieving that goal or want saying to you? What about the negative voices? What is at risk if you run after what the positive messages are saying? What is at risk if you just give into the negative messages? Where do you see faith playing into you achieving what you want from this dilemma?
6. Now **read Hebrews 11:1.** What does this verse teach us about faith and faithfulness? Do you see this type of faith in your life? If you had the type of faith that this verse describes, how do you think that faith could influence the dilemma or the want in your life? What is one intentional step of faith that involves you trusting in God that you could take towards achieving the big want from the dilemma in your life?

Challenge:

Jim talked about how all of us are buying into and believing a lie either about ourselves or about a certain area of our lives. Those lies are telling us something different than what God’s Word says is true and best for our lives and being faithful means trusting that what the Bible says is actually true and that aligning our lives with how the Bible tell us to live is actually the best way to live our lives. With that being said, the challenge this week is to:

1. Identify what lie or lies you are believing about yourself or the way you are living your life.
2. After identifying the lie or lies, search the Bible for the truth about those lies and begin to ask God to solidify that truth in your heart so that you can begin to live more faithfully.