

Sunday, January 1, 2017

"Begin With God"

Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Genesis 1:1, John 1:1,

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Now would also be a great time to allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We make lists about what we will change or do or stop doing to start the new year...but the most important thing is that we **START WITH GOD**
- Norflette's prayers
 - 1 - God make me radically open
 - 2 - Would you awake my wonder
 - 3 - Be my desire
- God's movement has been evident every step of Norflette and his families journey (leaving school to work for a church, planting a church at 7 mile & Gratiot, coming to Grace)
- God can make much of the little that we give him
 - By ourselves we are not much
 - By ourselves we don't bring much
- God wants more **FOR US** than he wants **FROM US**
- We must begin with God
 - We have to ask who God is
 - The Bible is the unveiling of himself
 - What God has revealed about himself has been true from the beginning
 - **He didn't "get" good he has always been good
 - We need to allow his goodness and his love which have always been to move from out heads to our hearts
 - Sometimes we need God to create something new in us (Genesis 1 - God created)
 - Sometimes we just need to hear a word from God (John 1:1)...one word can change your life
- How do we begin with God
 - 15 minutes a day
 - 5 minutes **READING** the Bible
 - 5 minutes **WRITING** what God is highlighting/saying
 - 5 minutes **PRAYING** for the burdens God has placed on our hearts
 - God will do things supernaturally when we surrender our lives to him
 - We can't underestimate the small things
 - It's not just how we start or what we start but **WHO** we start with

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Are you willing to be radically open to God? What would that look/sound/feel like for you?
2. How have you seen God's movement in your life? When were the times that you saw and felt his goodness and love in your life?
3. How are you doing at believing that God is good from the depth of your being? explain
4. What do you need for God to create/make in you or for you this year or for this next season?
5. How has God revealed himself to you through his word? What did he communicate or say?
6. What will it mean for you to "begin with God" this year
7. What is God inviting you to as a result of this passage or message?

15 MINUTES Reading Plan: Begin to read through the book of John. 1 Chapter each day (Monday: John 1 Tuesday: John 2 etc.)