

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life: Ministry Partners needed for Children, Students, Music and Media Tech. Baptisms are on April 29th between services. Prayer Retreat June 3rd for Small Groups.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *God* – God is a gracious judge. Grace and judgment are not opposing attributes of God, but are both true of God’s nature.
- *Heaven & Hell* – Heaven is the place where the righteous in Christ will dwell in their Father’s glorious presence. Hell is the place where the unrighteous will dwell in the anguish of separation from God’s presence.
- *Angels* – Creatures made by God to worship and serve him. The devil is an angel who chose to rebel against God.

Key Observations

- *Read:* Matthew 13:10-17, Luke 17:20-21

According to Matthew 13:10-17 what is Jesus’ purpose in teaching through parables? What responses ought we to expect to this kind of teaching?

- According to Luke 17:20-21 what should we expect about the kingdom of God? How might the hiddenness of the kingdom inform the way we understand the parables Jesus teaches about the kingdom?
- *Read:* Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Matthew 24:36-51, Matthew 25:31-46
 - What do you notice about this parable? What features of the parable stand out to you and does Jesus’ explanation of the parable provide clarity about the story?
 - What does this parable teach us about God’s grace?
 - What does this parable teach us about God’s judgment? What do the other two passages from Matthew add to our understanding?

Listening

Responding to God

- In light of hearing this week’s sermon, our study together, and listening to God’s Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you
(*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?
- Close in Prayer and Read Daniel 12:2-3.