



STUDY GUIDE

November 5, 2023

Message Series:

Beyond

Message Title:

Beyond What We Can See

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Share a high and a low from the past week.

Pray:

Lord, we praise You for who You are – all-knowing, all-powerful, loving, and good. We ask that You open our hearts to hear whatever it is that You want to teach us in our time together. Help us to put aside all distractions and worries and focus on You and the incredible message that You have for us. May the words that we speak be pleasing to You and may we be inspired by Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- Share a story of one of your best hiking adventures and what you got to see and experience or if you have not hiked describe the most breathtaking view in nature you have ever seen.
- Describe a situation in your life where you had to first go through something challenging or even dangerous in order to get to your destination or to reach a goal.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18.

- What point is Paul making in verses 8-9?
- Relate this scripture to what PCC has accomplished through the Beyond Initiative thus far. Why is this important?

“That’s the life of following Jesus - that’s the cup - going wherever he leads, doing whatever he says, paying whatever the cost is, for the reward of heaven, sure, but we get reward before we get there. We get to KNOW that we are a part of a movement that is bigger than we are - the movement of Jesus in the world. The movement of changed lives happening right in front of us. The movement of the entire trajectory of a person’s future being changed. When you follow Jesus, that’s what happens. That’s what our church does. It’s what we’ve done from our very first days.” - Pastor Brian Hughes

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 12:20 minutes, 15 minute discussion)

- Pastor Brian shared the story of **Matthew 20:21 -22 & Mark 20:35-38** and the apparent contradiction in the story? Do you ever wrestle with these situations? If so, how do work through them?

- Do you have a regular exercise of asking what God wants of you? Explain.
- Pastor Brian shared that our church's approach to reaching people is at times unorthodox, risky and costly. Would you say this would describe your faith as well? Why or why not?

"Along the way we've had several pivot points - places where we had to decide if we would keep risking, keep pushing, keep paying the price. And you've done that, too. Here's the truth - every PCC'er decides along the way if they'll come with us. Many of you signed up for a life of following Jesus. But when it comes to church, it's ok to evaluate from time to time and ask: Is this still worth it?" - Pastor Brian Hughes

- Is it still worth it to join in on God's work through PCC? Why? Feel free to answer with a story if you have one and take some time to pray through what this means for you.

Reflect and Commit: (30 min.)

Read Psalm 90:17 & Read Colossians 1:28-29.

"We GET to follow Jesus here and in heaven. That's what it means to drink the cup. What does that practically look like? For you as a person, it's a posture. It's maxim or a mindset that doesn't live into the 'I want' or 'My goal' as much as it asks the daily question: What does God want? And when you don't know, you keep asking, and you stay committed to doing whatever God wants you to do and going wherever God wants you to go and saying whatever God wants you to say. It's not always easy, but it is always rewarding and right and holy." - Pastor Brian Hughes

- What is one way you have lived into "drinking the cup" at PCC?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

"From our first day until this day, we've been making it work, figuring it out, and going for the goal. The goal? To reach every person around us who doesn't go to church so that we can ALL experience the fullest lives possible through Jesus Christ.

So look around, church, God is on the move. Let's keep moving with him - we're the church - God's people - moving beyond what we can see, but into what God has always wanted: Changed lives and altered eternities. That's the reward at the top of the climb. And best of all, we get to do it together." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank You for calling us to follow You. Shape our minds, hearts, and actions according to Your Word. Please give us wisdom, insight, understanding and discernment. In doing so you help us to go beyond what we can see. Help us to apply all that we learned to our lives and give us a heart that is willing to move. We praise You that You are able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen.