

Immeasurably More

“Immeasurably More of Jesus”

Week 1 – April 16, 2023

Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-21; John 15:5

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Think about someone who has a powerful vision to accomplish something. Share about this vision and what characteristics stand out in this person.

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Our Easter message focused on the mission of Jesus that emerges out of the resurrection. He has commissioned his disciples and all who would follow Him not to gaze into heaven waiting for his return, but to be fully engaged in the work of making disciples, bringing the message of the grace of God to the world with power, and building His new Kingdom. We are not to be *heaven-gazers, but hope bringers*. This is the work of the Church. This series builds on the Easter message by looking at the work of the disciples in the early days of the church. We relate it to our mission... **To see every(one) transformed and mobilized by Jesus**. Kensington Church is Jesus' Church, His mission, His Kingdom. Everything depends on our surrender to him, and commitment to follow him.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. What was your view of Church when you were growing up? What brought you to Kensington Church?
2. Discuss **Ephesians 3:16-21**. Lean into the “immeasurably more” in verse 20. This Scripture is a prayer that we would have the power to grasp his love, to know it's depth and height and length that goes beyond knowledge (information), and that we would be filled with the fullness of God.
 - a. Is it possible to grasp that God can do more than all we ask or imagine? Why or why not?
 - b. What could happen, when above all else, we desire more of Jesus?
 - c. Read **John 15:5**. What can we do apart from God? Why?
3. What if we were recognized as people who, through our behavior, our attitudes, and our words as people who have “been with Jesus”? Read the following Scripture and discuss what is revealed about following Jesus and being with Jesus.
 - a. **Mark 1:16**
 - b. **John 21:21-22**
 - c. **Mark 3:13**
 - d. **Acts 4:13**

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God for a powerful vision for what is possible when we as a community lean on each other, encourage one another, and take steps of faith to invite each other into the journey with Jesus. Ask him to guide our behaviors, our attitudes, and our words. We are grateful to surrender and commit to His Church, His mission, and His Kingdom.

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“Immeasurably More Transformation”

Week 2 – April 23, 2023

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 28:18-20

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Do you have a hobby that you are super passionate about? If so, how has your passion for it transformed other parts of your life?

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Jesus was and is not interested in making converts, but rather disciples. The good news is that we are invited to step into an intimate and transformative relationship with Jesus right now. The early church as described in the book of Acts gives us an account of how meeting Jesus changed people. In **Acts 2:42-47** we see that transformation was in the peoples devotion to Jesus' teaching and fellowship with one another. We are formed, and transformed, in a spiritual God-focused community.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. What is something that was passed along to you from your family? Is there a tradition in your family, a mannerism, or a passion?
2. Read **Matthew 28:18-20** and discuss. Jesus tells his disciples to go and make disciples, to teach everything they have learned and been commanded. Jesus is basically saying “Pass along what you have seen and experienced.”
 - a. In your relationship with God, whether old or new, what is easy for you to share with others?
 - b. What is more difficult for you to share with others?
3. How can the church be committed to participating in and inviting others into a transformative relationship with Jesus?
 - a. Discuss Jesus as a teacher. Read **Matthew 23:15** and **Luke 6:40**. The verse in Matthew comes from an interaction between Jesus and the religious leaders. The verse in Luke is part of an illustration Jesus gave to his disciples.
 - b. Discuss spiritual fullness found in Christ. Read **Colossians 2:6-10** and **Galatians 4:17-19**. Just as we receive Jesus Christ as Lord, we must continue to live our lives rooted and built in him. These verses are from letters that Paul wrote to the early churches in Colossae and Galatia to encourage and support them.

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that through him we are transformed. We are grateful for the accounts of the early church, Jesus' own teachings, and the letters Paul wrote to the early churches he ministered to during his Kingdom work here on earth. Lean into your relationship with God and where you see transformation in your own life. Ask him to show you ways to share your story of transformation with others.

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“Immeasurably More Mobilization”

Week 3 – April 30, 2023

Scripture: Luke 4:16-21; 42-44; Luke 14:25-33

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Do you know someone who is a great storyteller? If yes, what makes this person a great storyteller?

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Jesus' Kingdom is not about comfort and protecting the status quo, but about movement and disruption. Often these disruptions are at the invitation of Jesus. He never stops asking us to follow him. Jesus cannot be tamed. He was a revolutionary, starting a Kingdom at great personal cost, and when he speaks these same words today, **follow me**, the invitation is to join him in his revolution to change the world, at risk and cost, with plenty of disruptions!

This is Christianity in its purest form. While we as human beings naturally seek comfort, predictability, safety and being in control, Jesus invites us into a different way of life- a better life, a life of deep meaning and purpose and impact.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. The way of the Kingdom of God is not containment. Discuss **Luke 4:16-21; 42-44**. The key to everything God is about is found in the words Jesus spoke to those who wanted to contain him, to keep him for themselves: “I must go...That is why I was sent.” How does this challenge the way we live our lives?
2. Jesus gave his disciples the mission to move His Kingdom forward, advance it, and multiply his work. Jesus challenged them to **now do even more**, even greater things. We are also invited to follow him, to move out, to mobilize.
 - a. As we have more of him, we experience transformation, and then mobilization. The mobilization is to be local and global. Discuss how the early church mobilized themselves in **Acts 1:8, Acts 6:1-4, and Acts 11:27-30**.
 - b. Where do you desire to see more transformation and mobilization in your own life?
3. Kensington Church, as long as it exists, will be shaped by his words found in Luke 15. Here Jesus tells three stories of the *lost being found*. They are stories which reveal a God who sees the one, loves the one, pursues the one. He is the shepherd who will leave the 99 sheep in passionate pursuit of the one who is lost. You see these stories and this passion in our Mission Statement- *To see every[one] transformed and mobilized by Jesus*. How do we join him on Mission? The answer is found in Luke 14. Read **Luke 14:25-33** and discuss what it means to “first sit down and consider”.

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that we are invited to follow him, and that we will be immeasurably more mobilized as we move out into the world in need. Ask him to show you how you can take the message of hope and transformation out into the world. Ask God to help you move away from sitting comfortably and move towards becoming a world-changer – changing the world that God loves and came for.