

2024 SPRING CONNECT GROUPS
'GET REAL' WEEK 8: REAL PEOPLE STILL HAVE STRUGGLES
Week of May 26-June 1st

Introduction: The big idea: "Real people still have struggles, but God's grace never leaves."

Summary: As Christians, we sometimes feel that once we accept Jesus into our lives, it should be smooth sailing from there on out. But if we're honest with ourselves, we all know that's not how life works. We still face struggles, challenges, and trials.

This week we looked at three truths concerning the presence of a struggle:

- 1. The Presence of the struggle is proof that you are In Christ**
- 2. The Presence of the struggle is proof that you haven't given up**
- 3. The Presence of the struggle doesn't cancel out the presence of Christ**

We also looked at three things to do during the struggle:

- 1. Renew your mind to the Gospel**
- 2. Surrender the struggle to God – over and over again**
- 3. Stop fighting (your flesh) and start feeding (your Spirit)**

In this message we looked at principles such as:

- The struggle does not mean you're not a Christian, it means you're still human.
- Salvation is instantaneous, but sanctification takes time.
- The enemy will use your struggles to attack you.
- You may have struggles, but you are not your struggles. You are who God says you are.
- As Christians we can face our struggles, not in our power, but in God's power.

Scriptures to Explore:

- 1. 2 Corinthians 12:9**
- 2. Hebrews 4:15-16**
- 3. Romans 8:38-39**

Discussion Questions:

1. Share which point or thought from this message resonated with you? Did this message change, impact, or reinforce what you believed about how we as Christians face struggles?
2. Discuss the difference between a Christian 'struggling' with a certain issue, and living in outright rebellious sin.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9 and discuss the concept of God's grace being sufficient in our weaknesses. How does Paul's attitude toward his weaknesses challenge our perspective on struggles?
4. Read Hebrews 4:15-16, how does the idea of Jesus empathizing with our weaknesses impact the way we approach God in times of need?
5. Read Romans 8:38-39, how does the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love provide comfort and hope in times of struggle? Discuss the significance of this truth.

Personal Application: Identify one specific way you can lean on God's grace in the midst of your current struggles. And actively trust in God's sufficiency during this time.

Prayer