

DEEP SIX STUDY

October 31st, 2021

The Story Project – “Your Story”

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS (You can view the full message on Facebook or at live.capecodchurch.com/live)

Opening: As The Story Project wraps to a close, this week we take a practical look at how the Gift(s) of Life that God wants for us can become ours in a real way. Because it's one thing to know the gifts are there – it's another to unwrap them and see them come to life within us. So how does that happen?

1. The Story Becomes Your Story... (John 10:10)

- The Gift of Life that God offers isn't just “eternal” (i.e., future) life, it's a full, abundant life now. And it's not just “spiritual” – it's about your mind, body AND spirit – your life as a whole. It's also not just a gift for “church people,” it's for *everyone*. God wants every person to have full, abundant, eternal life. This is what fuels our ministry and mission as a church – our desire to share the Gift of Life with our neighbors, “across the street and around the world.”
- Jesus doesn't call us to “give up the keys” to a stranger; he calls us as a friend who loves us and wants what's best for us. Receiving this Gift of Life means we receive:
 - a. *A Meaning No One Can Steal* – We find ultimate meaning and purpose for our lives.
 - b. *A Peace That Overcomes Hate and Hurt* – Jesus releases us from the prison of hatred.
 - c. *A Family That Endures Divided Times* – We're invited into an eternal family of belonging.
 - d. *A Rest That Resists Hurry* – We can finally escape from hurry – “the enemy of our soul.”
 - e. *A Life of Discovery That Sets Us Free To Authenticity* – A journey that keeps us humble.
 - f. *A Generosity That's Not Afraid of Scarcity* – Generosity based on who we have, not what.

2. ...When The Relationship Becomes Real (John 15:4-5; John 14:16-18; John 14:25-26)

- After exploring the many facets of The Gift of Life, the question becomes, “How does that happen in my life?” Does it just “happen” miraculously? Or is it all about will-power and trying hard? Jesus gives us the secret in John 15: “Remain (*abide*) in me.” The key is *relationship*.
- The gifts that come with the Gift of Life (meaning, peace, etc.) come from Jesus because they ARE him. Only by living daily life in relationship with him can they become who *we* are, as well. Jesus promised that his Spirit would bring the Gift(s) of Life to those who “remain in him.”
- One practical habit, above all others, can greatly enhance our relationship with God and lead us to “remain in him.” That practice is a Daily Quiet Time – 15, 30, or 60 minutes each day of:
 - a. *Nothing Else* – A time each day set aside to focus solely on my relationship with God
 - b. *Read and Reflect* – Reading his printed Word (Bible) to hear what his voice sounds like.
 - c. *Talk With Him* – Prayer, including Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.
 - d. *Ask Him What He Wants You To Know* – It's a conversation...let God speak to you!
 - e. *Listen and Write Down What God is Saying Through His Word and Spirit* – Listen to him!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

These passages may provide additional insights related to the subject of this week's message. Verses from NLT unless otherwise noted.

Psalms 37:4-5; Zephaniah 3:17; John 14:23; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 4:6-7; Revelation 3:20

Video of the Week: [Holy Spirit](#) by the Bible Project

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. As we've talked about the Gift of Life over the last two months, what's one realization or understanding you've come to about the Gift that you didn't have before?
2. Of the six facets of the Gift of Life that we've discussed (peace, family, rest, etc.), which facet of the Gift has appealed to you most? Explain your answer.
3. Based on your experience with the Gift of Life, is there another facet that you would have added to the list – something else you believe Jesus gives us as part of the "full life"? If so, what would it be?
4. Read John 15:4-5 again. What, exactly, is the "fruit" that we bear if we "remain in" Jesus (and don't bear if we don't remain in him)?
5. The message stated that receiving and living out the Gift(s) of Life is all about a *relationship* with Jesus – and that part of that happens "miraculously" while part of it happens through our efforts (work) to foster the relationship. Besides the (big) example of a daily quiet time, in what other ways are we called to "work" to strengthen our relationship with Jesus? How important are each of them?
6. What is your "quiet time" routine (when, where, how long, what do you do, etc.)? What one element of your quiet time (if any) is most effective in growing your relationship with God?