

The Hope of Holiness

By LINDSEY PRIEST | MARCH 23, 2019

Timothy has come . . . and has brought us the good news of your faith and love. (1 Thess. 3:6–7)

When I picture holiness, I easily imagine lone prophets or monks, fully dedicated to God, serenely living a life in prayer, perhaps alone on a mountain or in a desert somewhere. Often, when I am frustrated by my own failings, by the way I treat others when irritated or impatient, I think the best response is to withdraw. My image of holiness says that to encounter God, I must distance myself from other people.

But the image of holiness that Paul, the writer of 1 Thessalonians, offered is far more relational. First, he noted how encouragement and testimony can strengthen the faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and he pointed out the joy found in selfless, loving community. Then he said that desiring such fellowship is right—a reflection of God’s own Trinitarian nature. Finally, he said that a communal pursuit of holiness culminates in love that overflows the boundaries of our circles—and that love is made perfect by Christ.

Paul seemed to say that this holy community is vital to the Christian walk. In fact, it’s often what makes the walk bearable! Especially in times when we feel powerless on our own, or alone with our doubts, or helpless in the face of injustice, the answer is often found in holy community, where Christ’s blood redeems us and we join his holy body.

Write down three believers who might help you in difficult times.

March 24, 2019

Sermon Notes:

Luke 7:1-17

Ephesians 2:1-7

1. Jesus _____ His _____

He is _____

Ephesians 2:5-7

2. Jesus _____ His _____

He is _____

Hebrews 4:12

Isaiah 55:10-11

3. Jesus _____ our _____

He is _____

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the ***next step*** is for our lives. How deep is your compassion for the lost? How might the Holy Spirit be tugging on your heart to minister and speak His words of truth to a co-worker, friend, or even a family member this week about the saving work of Jesus?

Challenge: This week I will pray for the following friend(s) or family member(s) who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior:

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the **Lord's Table, also known as Communion.** We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

FOCUS Small Groups

Are you interested in connecting with others throughout the week? We have several Small Groups already meeting and some preparing to start additional groups. Here are the groups already gathering during the week:

~ **Women's Group** - 11 AM Wednesdays - Upbeat Café

~ **Men's Group** - 11 AM Wednesdays - Upbeat Café

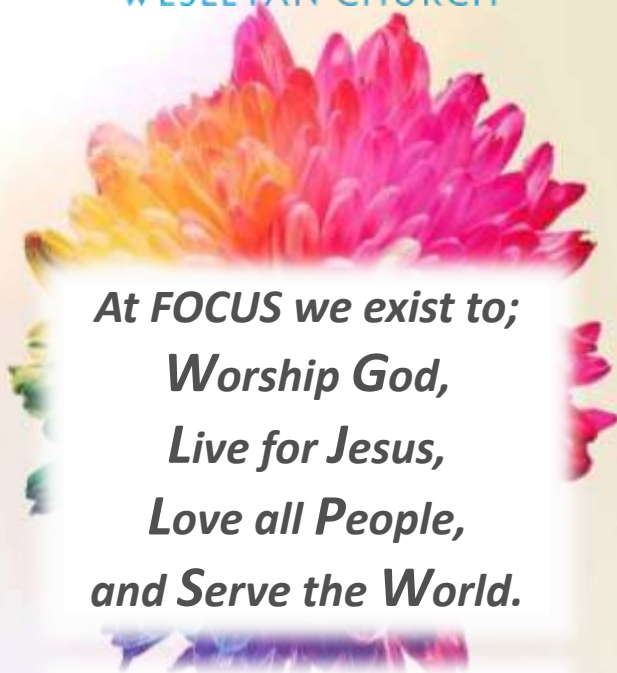
~ **Women's Life Group** - Wednesday Evenings 7 PM - **Life Group member's** Home, Sadieville, KY

~ Tentatively starting this week:
Youth Small Group - afterschool at Chick-fil-a, Georgetown, day and time TBD

*For more information about joining or starting a small group please contact Pastor Anton. afolz@focuswesleyan.org or 502-369-2096

FOCUS Youth Group

Tonight! 6:30 - 8 PM



***At FOCUS we exist to;
Worship God,
Live for Jesus,
Love all People,
and Serve the World.***

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