

Abide in Me

John 15:4

*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



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The Week of February 4, 2024

Seen and Safe
Matthew 26:26

Our guest speaker today is Dr. Jonathan Teubl. Jonathan, Sarah, and their four daughters serve as global workers in Asia. By God's will, they will be returning soon. Jonathan skillfully weaves his call to serve God in a risk-taking context with the assurance of God's ultimate security in Christ. In today's message, we will also encounter the life-altering reality that being in Christ does not mean that God will never "surprise" us, while at the same time we are more secure than ever.

PASSAGES REFERRED TO IN THE MESSAGE

Matthew 3:17

And behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Psalms 17:15

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Psalms 104:29

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Matthew 26:26

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting on Bella's harrowing story and continuing implications, how are any of us *safe* in an unsafe world surrounded as we are by hostile forces?

2. Recall the video clip of the *Still Face Experiment* when the mother and her baby are sitting facing each other.

- What happened when the mother turned away from her baby?
- Can you remember a time when you felt like the baby in the video?
- What lesson(s) can be drawn from this experiment about how real connection is made and how our identity is built?

3. Think about how our identity is formed. Discuss how our identity is not so much shaped by a cognitive process, but by being seen and recognized.

4. Read Matthew 26:26. Consider the three pictures that Dr. Jonathan shared about Jesus from this verse and how each one is true of us and independent of what we do.

Blessed:

Broken:

Given:

5. React to the glorious dynamic of God's face beaming when He looks upon us. Is this something even conceivable for you? Why or why not?

6. In what way is Communion a significant part of how we are re-formed?

7. How did Jonathan's message change the way you see God, the way you see yourself, and the way you see your place in the world?

More Secure Is No One Ever

By Lina Sandall Berg

*More secure is no one ever, than the loved ones of the Savior.
Not yon star on high abiding, nor the bird in home-nest hiding.*

*God His own doth tend and nourish, in His holy courts they flourish;
Like a father kind He spares them, in His loving arms He bears them.*

*Neither life nor death can ever, from the Lord His children sever,
For His love and deep compassion, comforts them in tribulation.*

*Little flock, to joy then yield thee! Jacob's God will ever shield thee;
Rest secure with this Defender, at His will all foes surrender.*

*What He takes or what He gives us, shows the Father's love so precious;
We may trust His purpose wholly, tis His children's welfare solely.*

As you close in group prayer, remember to lift up the Teubls as they prepare to leave for Asia and for the clarity of God's direction and His intention for them as they return.

