

MOVEMENTS

THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT 3: INWARD

Queue up the 12-minute video, "Movement 3," available online at fbclodi.org. **Have someone read Colossians 1:19-23 first, then push play.**

Discussion Questions for Moving Deeper:

1. The past two weeks, we have been looking at God's "Big" rescue plan for the world and everything in it. In Colossians 1, Paul talks about this big plan, but his deeper purpose is to talk about what the rescue plan looks like for each of us, individually.

If you have a faith journey of being "rescued;" of seeing your life dramatically changed or being set free from something as a result of Jesus' work, would you be willing to share that in the group right now?

2. In the video, we talked about the reality that God wants to heal *all of us*. Salvation is not just about our eternal security in heaven, it's also about God healing every part of our broken selves. What things is God working on, healing, or "saving" in you even now? What things do you wish He would heal but it just seems like He isn't?
3. This week, we're looking at "moving inward" together; developing a community group that is open and vulnerable enough so that each member of the group can have the opportunity to share and experience the kind of "holistic" salvation we discussed. What would it take for a community group to be transparent enough with one another that this kind of sharing could take place? What kind of commitments would you have to make with one another?
4. At this point, Is anyone uncomfortable? Why or why not? What do you need in order for that discomfort to fade?

Questions for Moving Deeper Still

(Don't worry about these if you are out of time or have other things to do as a group.)

5. Read Ephesians 4:25-31, from another letter by Paul. In it, there is a list of behaviors which are fairly common struggles among us humans (I above all can attest to this). Is there something in this list that sticks out at you? Something here that is a struggle for you? Why?

Moving Beyond

(Getting even deeper on your own or with your group)

The following is taken from John Ortberg's book, "Soul Keeping." It's a great read if you are looking to go deeper on this inward journey.

*"The writer James talks about this whole concept of the inward journey in a different way. In James 1:8, he says, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." Later, he repeats, "wash your hands, you sinners and purify your hearts, you double-minded." The word translated "double minded" in the New International Version is the Greek word *dispuchos*. *Psuche* is the greek word for soul. So this literally could be translated, "you split-souled" or, "you fractured soul." ... People will often say things such as "I feel like my life is falling apart" or "i just can't seem to get my act together," or "I feel like I am going to pieces." These are the cries of an inner life (soul) that was made to be whole, and longs to become whole once again."*

The reality is that all of us, in some way, are "double minded." We know what we want to do, and we know where we want to be, but so often we find ourselves doing the exact opposite. This is why the writer Paul says, "I don't know why I do the things I don't want to do!"

Read Matthew 22:36-38.

How could following this "greatest commandment" help to make you more "whole?" If you were to filter every action through a mental filter of "does this show God how much I love Him," How would that change things for you?

Recognizing that you will not get it perfect, the challenge this week is to do this. Ask yourself, as many times as possible throughout the day, whether your actions are showing God how much you love him. Let's see what happens!