THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
Sermon: Up where we belong.
Sermon: 6.12.08
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Small Group Study for Week of December 6 - 12, 2008

The Big Idea: For us to change and grow with Jesus Christ, we need to be able to see ourselves as God sees us. Seeing ourselves as God sees us is a process. First, we need to see who we were without Christ, then and only then, can we see ourselves as God sees us, right now. Seeing ourselves as God sees us allows us to continually become more like Christ.

Group Reads Ephesians 2:1-3
Questions:
1. What are some of the characteristics found in someone without Christ?
2. What are the consequences Paul says, for people living without Christ?
3. Is there is a difference between someone wallowing in their past mistakes and sins and someone who acknowledges their past and is willing to move on.
4. What is the difference between acknowledging then repenting of our past and living in our past?

Group Reads John 2:4-10
Questions:
1. Discuss the "but" at the start of verse four.
2. What part does God do in verse 4-10 and what do we do?

Comment: When Christ was seated at the right hand of God after He went back to heaven, see Ephesians 1:20, it meant that He had won the victory over sin and death and could now continue to rule the universe. As part of His rulership he now ministers for us in heaven, helping us to change and grow.

Discuss:
1. The similarity between Ephesians 1:20 and 2:6. What does that mean for us?
2. What does God intend our lives to be according to the verses we have led?

Group Reads Romans 8:31-38
Question:
1. Discuss what these verses tell us about how God feels about us?
2. How does this compare with what we often think of ourselves?
3. How does, who we believe, about who we are, matter?
4. How then should we live?

Conclusion: If we believe God is for us and thinks we are fantastic, we must realise the amazing opportunities open to us. We cannot receive this life of victory in Christ, unless we acknowledge who we have been, and believe God about who we now are. When we do – our lives will never be the same.