



BAEWATCH

GRACE TO SAVE US FROM A HOOK UP CULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Downtown Worship Night, February 11 & 18, 6:30 Knox Church
- BAPTISM BASH, February 11, 1:30PM Microtel Pool
- Downtown Launch, February 25, 6:30PM, Knox Church

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- God to develop you to become the one in whatever season you are in (the field, the garden, the valley).
- For Mosaic Downtown plans and strategies

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

Most of the emphases in today's hook up culture tends to be on finding the right one, but the Bible's emphasis is not to find the right one, instead, **TO BE THE RIGHT ONE**. The Biblical way of finding a mate asks the question: "Am I the person the person I'm looking for is looking for?"

Romans 3:22 NLT, *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.*

We live in what many sociologists call a "hook-up" culture. The hook up culture is like always being on the lookout for someone to get together with, with the intention of dating or having sexual relations with them; and if things work out, perhaps go a little deeper in relationship. That's how pretty much hook-up culture is; finding someone interesting and hooking up with them, trying things out, and if it doesn't work, end the relationship, time to move on and find another person to hook up with. Here at Mosaic, we've always emphasized becoming the person God wants us to be. More than finding the right person for us, we want to learn how to become the right person. Pastor Jon gave us biblical metaphors that helped us learn how to become the person God wants for us to be.

Become the one in the field (Singleness). Genesis 24:63-65 tells us how Isaac and Rebekah met out in the field. We learned that in the Bible, the field symbolizes two things: 1) The field as God's kingdom, 2) The field as a season of growth. Before Isaac met Rebekah, they were doing what God called them to do separately. Isaac tended his father's field and Rebekah worked for her family, feeding and watering her father's flock. They were doing what God has called to do where God placed them. John 4:35, *Jesus said... The fields are already ripe for harvest.* More than anything, we must work the field, not play the field. Make His Kingdom our priority and allow Him to work in your life to turn you into becoming the one. Remember that the field is also a place or place for growth. There is so much to do, learn and enjoy in this season of your life in the field. This is a season in which you can pursue God's plans for you and your dreams unhindered.

Become the one in the garden (Marriage). God instituted marriage in the Garden of Eden. It was the first home of the first married couple. It was where God brought Eve to Adam in Genesis 2:21-25. The garden has always been an awesome metaphor for marriage. Just as how God wants to develop us in the field, He also wants to develop us in the garden. Pastor Jon shared that the best way to have fruitful vertical (human) relationships is by getting our horizontal relationship right (Romans 3:22). In Christ you begin to see your role as a husband or a wife in light of God's glory, and you begin to tend your own garden of marriage for God's glory. So despite the difficulties and trials your marriage will face, it will not crumble, because Jesus is the core that holds you together. As long as God's glory is the aim of your existence as a person and as a married couple, your marriage will stay strong. A successful marriage is not one without any trials. A successful marriage is one that overcomes trials by God's grace; and you as a couple, emerge out of that trial stronger than ever before. Pastor challenged the married people, "If you're marriage isn't working, it's perhaps because you're not working at it?"

Become the one in the valley (Separation/Pain). If you have been hurt or you just came out of a marriage that crumbled and you're still picking the pieces of your broken heart, Pastor reminded us that in Christ, you can find healing (Psalm 34:18) and a fresh start (Lamentations 3:22-23). Even in the valleys of your life you can still become the one whom God called you to be. As long as you're alive, He is not done with you yet; and there is always hope (Jeremiah 29:11)!

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

If you could change one thing about yourself what would it be?

What is the purpose of being in a relationship?

Based on last Sunday's sermon, what can you say about today's "hook-up" culture?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Why kind of wife did Abraham want for his son? What would have been the danger in finding a wife from among the Canaanites? Genesis 24:2-4

What lesson should Christian parents learn from Abraham?

What should we learn from the way this servant handled his master's orders?

What might be particularly enlightening about the timing of God's answer to Isaac's prayer?

Is God able to guide a sincere Christian to the right life partner? Genesis 24:10-27.

Based on Pastors metaphors of *the field* for growth and the kingdom, is there ever a time when we'll ever leave the field? Why or why not?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

If unmarried: What character traits are you looking for in a potential mate? If married: What character traits drew you to him or her?

Why is obedience to God so important in our pursuit of becoming the one? In what ways is God calling you to grow in obedience especially in the your current season (field, garden, valley)?

What character trait(s) is God calling you to get rid of so he can develop you into the godly mate He wants you to be?

If unmarried: What are some consequences of opening sexual doors before marriage?

If married: How can couples guard themselves from sexual temptations outside of marriage?

Pastor mentioned that the most important lesson in last Sunday's sermon is choosing to "become the one" in whatever season we are in, not our own sake or for our future potential mate, but for the Glory of God. How important is God's glory for you? How do you aim for it?

If married: What are you doing to tend your garden of marriage?