*[Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you’ve never used our Study Guides before, you’ll find some basic instructions on the last page]*

**SERMON TITLE – “From Knowing to Relationship”**

1 Week After Easter - April 24, 2022 – Pastor Leah Knight

We finish our Lent Series – “Change-Maker: The Dawn of Something New” the week after Easter so that we can look back and reflect on what changes Jesus brought in his earthly ministry and in our own lives. Throughout this series, we looked at a key change Jesus made throughout Holy Week and what this mean for us. Before we jump into our study guide, let’s take a few moments and reflect on the spiritual learnings and practices we have been a part of since Ash Wednesday – what stands out for you this Lent/Easter?

**GROUP DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS**

Q- Pastor Leah opened with an illustration of how she went from knowing a guy in college (Andrew) that she was not all that interested in entering into a serious relationship to that same guy becoming the love of her life and now her husband. The story was given to show how we move from knowledge to relationship. She said:

“RELATIONSHIP changes things. It changes the way you see the other person. It changes the way you look at them. It changes how you feel about them. It changes what’s possible inside of YOU. Real, shared life relationship opened me up to the possibly love. And I’m not just talking about ROMANTIC love. I mean the ability to allow myself to be known and seen and received and accepted in return. Love. Ordinary, extraordinary love.

Knowing *about* someone is not the same as knowing them in relationship. Relationship changes things. You, me, us.”

* Have you ever experienced this principle of knowing something (or someone) *not* in a relationship versus knowing in a relationship?

Q – One of the passages Leah read from was from John 15:1-5 when Jesus teaches his disciples about the vine and the branches. How does the concept of “change” enter into this teaching?

(*Leader Note: Unless the branch undergoes the changes to bear fruit, it can not be part of Jesus’ vine.*)

Q – The sermon featured a great quote from author Skye Jethani from his book *With*:

“Life with God is different than a life FROM God. Where our relationship becomes more about what we get FROM God.

Life with God is different than a life OVER God. Where our relationship to God is one of apathy, I don’t really need God. I have my own strategies for success thank you very much.

Life with God is different than a life FOR God. Where our relationship to God is about what we can do for God. Where we relate to God by accomplishing great things FOR God.

Life with God is different than a life UNDER God. Where our relationship to God is about doing things to appease God and win God’s favor.”

Which of these “with God” points do you resonate with the most or find the most needed?

Q – Wisely, Leah challenged us to consider that the only dramatic spiritual changes we can make can come through the “advocate” Jesus spoke of in John 14:16-17, 25-26.

* It may seem basic to some of us, but let’s read the passage - who is the “advocate?”
* How can we live allowing the Holy Spirit to be more at work in our lives?
* What changes do we need in our personal life, in our group-life and in our church-life that we can ask the Holy Spirit to advocate and empower us for?

**HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES**

* Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
* Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
* You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
* Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
* If your group meets over Zoom:
	+ You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
	+ Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
* Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.