



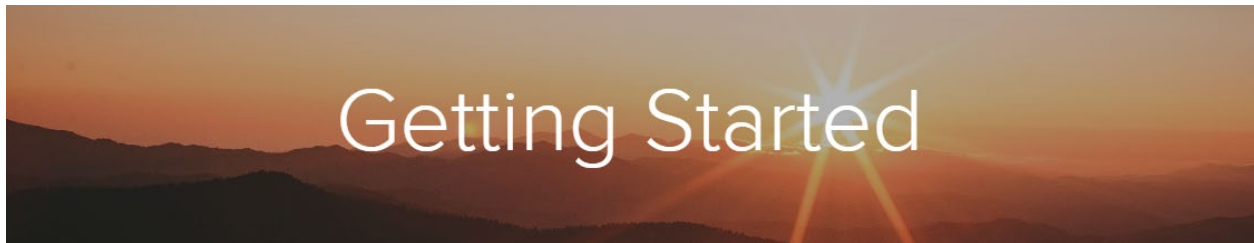
On June 23rd 2018, twelve members of the Wild Boar soccer team, ages 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old assistant coach, entered a cave in northern Thailand after a practice session. Shortly after they entered, heavy rainfall began and partially flooded the cave system, blocking their way out and trapping them deep within.

Efforts to locate the group were hampered by rising water levels and strong currents, and the team was out of contact with the outside world for more than a week. On July 2nd, after advancing through narrow passages and muddy waters, two British divers found the group alive on an elevated rock about 2.5 miles from the cave entrance.

After nearly three weeks of planning, organizing and training the boys, the rescue started on July 8th. For the next several days, two divers would accompany each boy for an hour long swim through narrow channels and submerged holes, holding the boy's oxygen tanks in front of them until they made it out. Over 10,000 people were involved in this dramatic rescue as the world watched.

In the same way that each of these boys have a dramatic rescue story to tell, each of us has a rescue story as well. Like the boys, we once lived in darkness and against all odds, our Heavenly Father sent his son, the Lord Jesus to come to earth to rescue us

by going to the cross and rising from the dead. As a follow up to this year's No Regrets Conference, we are going to spend the next six weeks listening to talks, diving into the scriptures and discussing how we can apply what we learn to our lives, at home, at work and in the community.



- Group Covenant. At the end of this study is a Group Covenant. Read through it and make sure everyone is in agreement. This is meant to be a guideline to strengthen your group.
- Golden Rule. A goal for this group is to provide a safe place where you can be honest with the other men. What happens or is shared in your group stays in your group. This is vitally important! Everyone in the group must agree that they will not divulge what is shared in your conversations, not even with a trusted friend or spouse.



Bible Study

The theme for this year's conference comes from Colossians 1:13-14, where it talks about Jesus rescuing us from the kingdom of darkness and bringing us into the kingdom of light. These two verses are actually part of a longer prayer that starts on verse 9. You will need to study Colossians 1:9-14. This is Paul's prayer for the church in Colossi and it can become our prayer as well as we pray for family members, friends and the men in your small group.

Discussion Question

Begin by having someone read the passage for the group.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his wills through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1. Based on this passage, what do we learn about God?

2. What do we learn about mankind?

3. Everyone, share one application from this study.

4. Discuss how you can use this prayer as a guide when praying for others.



Video

Discussion of Crawford Loritts Talk

Dr. Crawford Loritts is the former Senior Pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Georgia, President and Founder of Beyond Our Generation, a visiting professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a council member of The Gospel Coalition. Dr. Loritts has also been a church planter and served for twenty-seven years on staff with Cru. He has received five honorary doctorates and has written several books, including Unshaken. He and his wife, Karen, have four children.

WATCH THE VIDEO USING THE EMAIL LINK



Discussion Questions

5. What are some ways you are kept from sharing the light you have been entrusted with?

6. In order to live in the light we are called to produce the fruit of light. What are you doing to produce this fruit?

7. As we live in the light, how do we discern what does and does not please God?

Share and Prayer Time

In closing, each person should share one highlight and application from this first study and one thing that they would like prayer for.

Scriptures:

Colossians 1:13-14, I John 1:7, I John 4:9, 19, Ephesians 5:1-2,

Recommended Reading:

Following Christ by Joseph Stowell

Radical by David Platt

The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer

Rescued Group Covenant

In order to grow in my discipleship with Christ and to build authentic Christian community, I agree to the following standards:

1. Total and complete confidentiality: What is shared in the group stays in the group. I will say nothing that may be traced back or that could be injurious or embarrassing to my group members. My group leader will refer me to a pastor if I am contemplating harming myself or doing harm to others.
2. Share my life: I will be as open about my life as I can. I will be vulnerable with you, letting you know who I am as a person.
3. Unconditional love: I will love you, respect you, and affirm you no matter what you have said or done in the past. I will love you as you are and for what Christ desires you to be.
4. Voluntary accountability: I desire this group to be a place where we can be honest and open with one another and where I can be challenged to be relationally committed, spiritually maturing, emotionally healthy and kingdom mobilized.
5. Be prepared: In preparation for each week, I will listen to the talk and come prepared to discuss it.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____