

Small Groups

Conversation Guide – Remember the Titans

This week, Pastor Mark Pettus, finished our At the Movies series by sharing a powerful message on the theme of unity through the true story of Remember the Titans. He reminded us that while the movie centers on football and the challenges of racial integration in 1971, the deeper message is about the unity God designed every one of us to experience. Pastor Mark taught that the division we see in our world—political, generational, relational, and racial—is ultimately a reflection of hearts disconnected from God (Romans 3:23). True unity begins when God reconciles us to Himself and transforms us from the inside out (2 Corinthians 5:17–21).

He emphasized that wounds create walls, just like the Titans experienced: bitterness, insecurity, pride, and past hurts that keep us guarded. But God’s love melts those walls and empowers us to love others (1 John 4:19). As we pour out our hearts honestly before God (Psalm 62:8) and choose forgiveness (Colossians 3:13), He heals what was broken and restores unity in our relationships. Pastor Mark reminded us that biblical community is where unity becomes real—where differences don’t divide but deepen our dependence on God and one another. He closed by reminding us that when we plant our lives in God’s house (Psalm 92:12–15), we flourish, grow strong, and discover a life of purpose, belonging, and impact.

Make It Practical

- **Unity flows from the inside out.** Pastor Mark reminded us that division in the world is a symptom of disconnection from God in our hearts (Romans 3:23). True unity begins when God heals what’s happening inside us so His love can flow through us to others.
- **Walls are built from wounds, but God heals what hurts.** Like the Titans, many of us carry walls of bitterness, insecurity, fear, or past pain. Unhealed wounds block unity and connection—but the love of God can melt those walls (1 John 4:19).
- **Honesty with God opens the door to healing.** Scripture calls us to pour out our hearts to God (Psalm 62:8). He can handle our hurts, fears, and disappointments. When we bring our real selves to Him, He restores what’s been broken.
- **Forgiveness is the path to freedom and unity.** Forgiving others sets *us* free and breaks the cycle of hurt (Colossians 3:13). Pastor Mark shared that unforgiveness is like a boomerang—it comes back and harms us. When we forgive as God forgave us, we experience true relational healing.
- **Reconciliation with God empowers reconciliation with others.** Through Jesus, we become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17–21). As He restores our hearts, we’re empowered to love, serve, and walk in unity with those around us.

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 NIV

Talk About It

1. What part of today's message impacted you the most, and why?
2. Is there a "wall" in your life — a wound, fear, or past hurt — that you sense God wants to heal? What makes that area hard to open up?
3. Which next step do you feel God inviting you into this week: receiving His love, being honest with Him, or forgiving someone?
4. Where do you want to see more unity in your life—family, friendships, workplace, or church—and what is one practical step you can take this week?

Prayer

God, thank You for loving us first and showing us what true unity looks like. Heal the wounds in our hearts, help us lower our walls, and give us the courage to forgive and walk in restored relationships. Make us a people who reflect Your love and bring unity everywhere we go. Amen.

Tips

As we wrap up the small group semester, take time to pray about who you can invite to join you for a group this spring. And if you haven't completed the Growth Track yet, December is a perfect time to start. Join us for our Step 1 & Step 2 combo next Sunday!