



Small Group Curriculum

Messy Spirituality — The Messy Middle • Week 2

Scripture: Romans 5:1–2; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 1:6

Reminders

- Young Professionals: YP gatherings are the second Thursday and last Saturday of every month. More details and contact info [here](#).
- Team Night: If you are a current or prospective volunteer, join us for Team Night to hear where God is taking our church, huddle with your volunteer team, and enjoy tacos with one another. Sunday, March 8th 4-6:15pm. More info and registration [here](#).

Overview (Sunday Sermon Context)

Following Jesus does not instantly clean up our lives. When we come to Christ, we don't leave our mess behind—we bring it with us. Old habits, wounds, coping mechanisms, addictions, fears, and thought patterns often follow us into new life with Jesus. Salvation gives us a new identity, but transformation is a process.

Many of us assume spiritual growth should look like a straight upward line—steady progress, fewer struggles, and visible success. But real growth looks more like a spiral upward. We may revisit the same struggles, but each time with greater awareness, deeper humility, and more dependence on grace. God is still moving us forward, even when it feels repetitive or frustrating.

The problem isn't that we are messy—it's believing our mess disqualifies us or delays God's work. God's solution to our mess is not guilt, shame, or trying harder. His solution is grace. Grace is not only how the Christian life begins; it is how it continues and how it will be completed.

In Christ, we are justified—fully forgiven, accepted, and loved. Sanctification is the lifelong journey of learning to live out what is already true of us. God is not surprised by the baggage we bring into new life. He is committed to finishing what He started, even in the messy middle.

Icebreaker

When you first started following Jesus (or taking faith seriously), what did you *expect* would change quickly?

What has been slower or messier than you expected?



Introduction

We often expect Jesus to clean us up quickly, but instead He invites us into a process. Growth doesn't happen by pretending we're not messy—it happens when we bring our mess into the light of grace.

Lead Question:

When you think about your spiritual life, do you tend to measure it by progress or performance?

Discussion

Read [Romans 5:1–2](#)

1. What does this passage say is already true of us because of Jesus?
2. How does “standing in grace” challenge the way we usually approach growth and failure?

Read [Romans 8:1](#)

3. What “old baggage” do you feel like you brought into your new life with Jesus? Why is “no condemnation” so difficult to believe when we keep struggling with the same issues?
4. How can condemnation keep us stuck, while grace actually leads to change?

Read [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)

5. Why do you think God allows weakness to remain in our lives rather than removing it immediately? Where are you tempted to believe, *“I should be further along by now.”*
6. What is one area of your life that feels especially messy right now?

Read [Philippians 1:6](#)

7. How does this promise reshape the way you view your current struggles?
8. What would it look like to trust God with the process instead of rushing the outcome?

Prayer

Practice for the Week:

What are your prayers this week in areas that God is working in you? What is one way you can practice receiving grace instead of trying harder this week?

“Jesus, thank You that You are still working in us—and You will finish what You started.”
Insert prayer request.