

1. **Launcher: How well do you handle deprivation and going *without*?**

2. **Worship God – Romans 6:5-11**

Worship the LORD for His surpassing worth compared to any and every created thing. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for his goodness and trustworthiness vs. the transitory and vain things of this world.

3. **Sermon Reflection: “Sobriety vs Idolatry”**

What Is a Fast?

- What is a fast (what’s is its opposite) and why were they commanded?
- What does fasting express and why does God reward it?
- What is the lie that we have all bought into with this world? Why is this lie *enslaving*?

The Ultimate Deprivation & Reward

- How was Jesus worked both to forgive and free us?
- If we are truly addicts, what is the significance of both of those works of Jesus for us?
- How is the whole life and ministry of Jesus essentially a fast? Who was He oriented towards in all of His doings?

Fasting, Freedom & Love

- What do you learn about yourself when you fast? Do you rejoice or remorse when you realize you are so attached?
- What did you think about the story Tim told of the woman who provoked the man to lose, and not win, so that he may show her *true* love?
- How can fasting, from a posture of Gospel humility and security, help us identify and root out idolatrous influences and grow in faithfulness?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

- I. Worship the LORD for His surpassing worth compared to any and every created thing. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for his goodness and trustworthiness vs. the transitory and vain things of this world.
- II. How have you lived inordinately attached to the things of this world? Confess your idolatry, and spiritual adultery, to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to change your heart to truly love Him.
- III. Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to be deprived (bearing our guilt) and to share so freely His reward (giving us His righteousness). Thank Him for applying all of His blessedness to saving our lives through His suffering.
- IV. Who do you know that is hooked on something worldly? Pray for them, asking the Lord to work to persuade them of their need for redemption and to enable them to trust Jesus’ work instead of their own vain efforts.
- V. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, faithfulness and goodness. Pray for the Spirit to empower you to live faithfully toward the Father, root out idolatrous influences in your life, and die to them.

5. **Mission: We are on mission as Christians to see sin deflate by unplugging ourselves from our attachments—That we may know more of the freedom we have in Him and express our *true* love for Him.**