

imaginings and sometime we must confront the reality of life. We actually can't grow up to be a dragon trainer but sometimes knowledge seems cruel in destroying our dreams; we learn how expensive Medical School is or we realize our temperament isn't well suited for a certain career. But knowledge can also shift us into a higher level of commitment to our dreams. How do you balance your imagination with knowledge? What part does being realistic play in achieving your goals? Your dreams? Write your responses here.

Thursday, April 22

Read I John 2:9-17. You may want to review I John 3:1-7. As children of God we are to imagine what we need to do in order to be like Christ. What stands in the way of that life transformation is Sin. For the purpose of the message, we focused on how Sin limits our best intentions and potential because we deny ourselves the guidance of God, the example of Christ and the transformational power of the Holy Spirit. It has been said that Sin can be an acrostic for Soul In Need. How does Sin – that which separates us from God – keep you from reaching your greatest potential? What guidance from others are you missing out on because you are so focus on yourself? Consider these questions and write your thoughts here.

Friday, April 23

Read I John 3:1-7 one last time. A child at play believes he or she can be or do anything. A healthy imagination breeds creativity, confidence and a vision for the best of what life can be. Imagination can lead to discipline in pursuit of an imagined goal, a focus on what to embrace and what to avoid in pursuit of that goal. Pastor Jack mentioned four goals that our church is working on. What are you goals? How can your imagination be a catalyst towards your goals? Pray for God's guidance and write your ideas here.

Message Notes – April 18, 2021

*Just Imagine**

- I. People want to _____ that we are more than what we appear to be.
 - A. Watch a group of young _____ playing together, and one of the first things you'll notice is that they _____ that they are more than they appear to be.
 - B. Imaginative _____ develops important psychological and emotional capacities in children.
 1. Imagination transcends the limits of the present physical _____.
 2. Somewhere along the line, however, imagination begins to become less important than _____.
 3. It's not that knowledge is unimportant; it's that knowledge is _____ without imagination.
- II. What's true for education would also seem to be true for _____ and the life of discipleship.
 - A. Perhaps that's why John consistently refers to his audience as "_____" in this "letter" of 1 John.
 - B. It's an _____ to cultivate a childlike imagination for the kind of life God has made possible.
 - C. All of this is at God's initiative, out of God's imagination, and through God's _____. "See what _____ the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are" (1 John 3:1).
 - D. The children of God are to imagine that they can and will become like _____, the perfect image of God!
- III. The more a child of God believes that they are in _____

*I John 3:1-7

the mold of Jesus, the more power they have over _____.

- A. I want us to get beyond the thought that Sin is simply the _____ things we do.
- B. I want us to think about what sin does to our _____ and imagination.
- C. There's a real _____ for those who believe. The more a child of God believes that they are in the mold of Jesus, the more power they have over sin.
 - 1. Sin doesn't have to be the _____ factor.
 - 2. The _____ we imagine ourselves being formed in the image of Christ, the _____ sin becomes an influence in our lives.

IV. Here's where imagination becomes _____ for the children of God.

- A. If we cannot imagine that we can have victory over sin, that's a good indication that we aren't living as the _____ of God.
- B. So let me tell you what we've been imagining in recent months here at _____ Church.
 - 1. Creating a system of Congregational _____.
 - 2. Working on our outreach to our online _____.
 - 3. We are working on the issue of _____, sharing the love of Christ in welcoming those of the LGBT+ community.
 - 4. We are working on our _____ ministry.
- C. Imagination! That's how we _____; and that's how God can use us to _____ the world!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, April 19

A certain phrase was used to introduce the topic of imagination. That phrase is "People want to believe that we are more than what we appear to be." This thought is prevalent when we celebrate a person life during a funeral, hoping that in a significant way a person lives one in a realm that is more than what appears within our sight. This thought is also at the center of a child's play – imagining they are more than they appear to be – a superhero, a policeman or fire fighter, a secret agent or gifted athlete. Meditate on this phrase, "People want to believe that we are more than what we appear to be." How are you more than you appear to be? What hopes, dreams and aspirations does this phrase bring to your mind? Write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, April 20

Read I John 3:1-7. Focus on Verse 2: "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." The message began with the concept that children have little difficulty seeing themselves as more than they appear to be. A towel tied around their neck transforms them into a superhero and a large box can transformed them into a person exploring the depths of the ocean in a submarine or a race car driver! Imagination is a wonderful gift, not only for children but for adults as well. Let's focus on our imaginations as child. What was your favorite "make-believe" when you were young? Did you go through phases or did you change nearly every day? What did you imagine yourself to be like when you grew up? Think about these questions and record your response here.

Wednesday, April 21

Read I John 3:1-7. Yesterday we focused on our imaginations as a child. Today, let's consider the transformation of our imagination by knowledge. How have your dreams and hope changed since your childhood? Sometimes we grow up beyond our childhood