

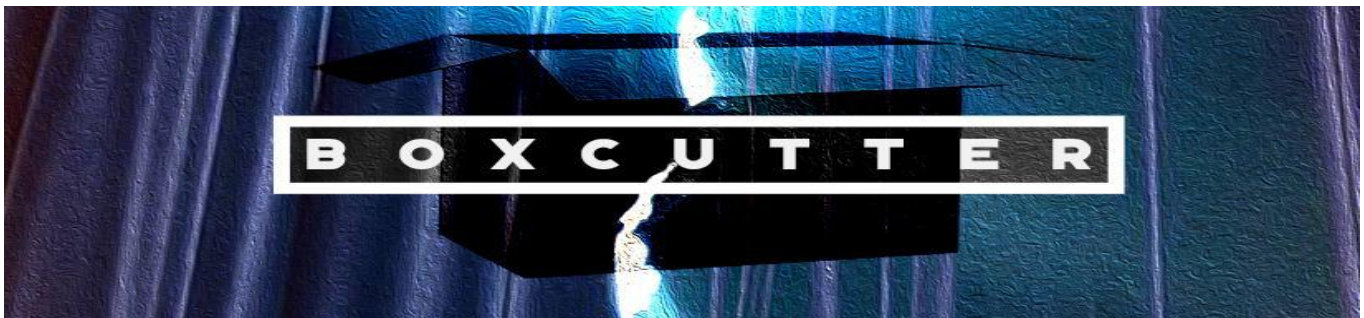
May Newsletter

Are you putting God in a box? Do you live a compartmentalized life where you only let God out of the box on Sunday mornings or when you are in a crisis? If you feel your relationship with God lacks depth and growth, the Boxcutter message series will help you to understand how the gospel gives you the confidence to live in the presence of God every day.

In the Old Testament, the presence of God was confined in the temple behind a curtain, but because Jesus died for our sins, the curtain of the temple was torn to symbolize that we are no longer separated from God's presence. We are reminded and encouraged to nurture an intimate relationship with God and let God be present in every aspect of our lives. In this 5 weeks teaching series, youth will:

- Understand why they no longer need to keep God in a box
- Let go of the box that they are holding God in
- Decompartmentalize their heart and let God into all areas of their heart
- Go deeper in their relationship with Him beyond just making good or bad moral choices
- Learn to walk with God every day

When we see our personal relationship with God through the lens of the gospel, we won't compartmentalize our heart before God, our faith will be more than just making good or bad moral choices, and we'll walk with God every day as He is our best friend.



Week 1

Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-7

The Point: To the unrighteous, the box is safety

Reflection Question: What parts of your relationship with God are you happy with right now? What parts do you wish would change?

Week 2

Scripture: Matthew 27:50-51

The Point: You need to let go of the box

Reflection Question: When Jesus died, the old way of relating to God was replaced by a new, more open and inviting way. What does this mean to you?

Week 3

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Point: When you see through the lens of the gospel, you won't compartmentalize your relationship with God

Reflection Question: What do you say to God when you go to talk with Him openly about your sin issues?

Week 4

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

The Point: When you see through the lens of the gospel, you'll go deeper than just good or bad moral choices

Reflection Question: If you were to invite God to address some of your deeper issues through prayer, what questions would you ask Him?

Week 5

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Point: When you see through the lens of the gospel, you'll walk with God every day

Reflection Question: What are some of the reasons you don't talk with God as often as you could?

SHORT, HELPFUL, BLOG POST

We all have the tendency to put God in a box. We compartmentalize and hide things from Him. We have a very specific role for God carved out in our lives and we don't want Him to interfere on the other parts of our lives.

Back in the Old Covenant, God put Himself in a box called the Ark of the Covenant. However, God shifted the way He interacts with His children through the New Covenant with Jesus.

Parenting is hard because your children change and you probably often find yourself struggling to figure out how your relationship with them should shift as they get older. You might even be so uncomfortable with the implications of the impending shift in dynamics that you avoid or ignore it.

If you are a parent who struggles with shifting the parent-child dynamic as your kids grow, can I encourage you that this is a beautiful part of parenthood reflected in the very gospel narrative itself? God interacted with humanity one way in the Old Covenant, but intentionally shifted that dynamic under the New Covenant through Jesus Christ. What you're doing is difficult, but it's beautiful! It's the way God has parented us over the course of redemptive history!

To Do:

Have a conversation with your child sometime in the next few weeks where you intentionally acknowledge some of the ways you've noticed that they've grown as a person over the past year or so.

April Activities Showcase



Walking alongside our youths can be a challenging journey, and we understand. If you have any questions or would like to have some prayer support, feel free to contact:

Pastor Ava (ava@koinoniachurch.ca) or
Pastor Canaan (canaan@koinoniachurch.ca) or
Priscilla (priscilla@koinoniachurch.ca).