

TAKING IT HOME

1. As you think about being a part of a community where others can be real and open about their lives, are there any behaviors that you need to modify or begin doing to help create a safer environment?

2. Take a moment to evaluate your prayer life and personal prayer requests. Do you find yourself primarily praying or asking for prayer for physical needs?

Can you think of any ways to incorporate more of your spiritual needs into your prayer life?

Prayer Requests:

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We Can't Always Get What We Want

SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE DOESN'T MEAN SPIRITUALLY UNACCEPTABLE

Luke 5:12-16

FOUR OF A KIND BEATS A FULL HOUSE

Luke 5:17-26

TAKING IT HOME

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Support a Military Family for the Holidays

We have a number of military families in need of support during the holiday season. Support a military family during the holidays by providing extra food, Christmas gifts, and other forms of support during this time of year. For more info, contact Deb at dbostwick@northcoastchurch.com or 760-724-6700 x 268.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 28, 2010

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *We Can't Always Get What We Want*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. This weekend we heard about becoming people who are willing to carry other people's burdens. Why do you think people often find it difficult to be more open and real about their burdens and struggles?

What benefits do you think people get from being more open and real about their lives?

2. Because of the packed house, the paralytic's four friends had to resort to desperate measures to get him healed. Is there a time in your life when you engaged in desperate measures in order to get something you really wanted? If so, what did you do and how did it work out?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Jesus' compassion compelled him to reach out and touch a man that everyone in that culture treated as an outcast. How do the following passages help us understand the attitudes and actions God wants us to have towards the people our society considers social outcasts today?

Psalms 82:2-4

Proverbs 14:31

Isaiah 10:1-2

Zechariah 7:9-10

Can you think of any people you come in contact with on a regular basis (or avoid on a regular basis) that our society would consider social outcasts?

How could you better relate to them in ways that are reflected in the verses you just read?

What additional insight does James 2:1-4 provide regarding this topic?

2. For most of us, being open about our burdens and struggles is a process that is greatly affected by the circle of people we are opening up to. What do the following verses suggest are some important ingredients that make a safe environment for this kind of sharing?

Ephesians 4:25-27, 29

Ephesians 5:3-4

James 1:19-20

Matthew 7:1-5

Which of the behaviors described above is most challenging for you to do or avoid?

3. Chris mentioned that Jesus was more concerned about people's spiritual needs than their physical needs. One area that reveals whether or not we think spiritual needs are more important than physical needs is our prayer life – what we pray for and what we ask others to pray for on our behalf. How could Colossians 1:9-14 help us balance our prayer life so we are not just praying for physical needs?