

“DON'T MAKE ME COME DOWN THERE”

Keys to reading Zephaniah:

Zephaniah 1:1-9, 2:1-3, 3:1-2, 3:7-8, 3:17

- ▶ Understand that dad has to say things **more than once**.
- ▶ Dad's **actions** greatly depend on his kids' **response**.
- ▶ Dad's kids weren't:
 - **obedient**
 - **accepting correction**
 - **trusting in God**
 - **in relationship with God.**

A king that actually got it right:

2 Kings 22-23, Joshua 1:7-9, 24:14-15

To avoid judgment, start with the **Word**, and start **at home**.

Don't stop cleaning house until the **job is done**.

Lessons from the kings and prophets:

Zephaniah 1:4-5, 3:1-2, Galatians 6:7-9, 1 Samuel 15:22-23

- ❶ Worship without **obedience** is **worthless**.
- ❷ Fight to keep **good** things from becoming **god** things.
- ❸ Just **5 degrees** off gets you **far from** where you want to be.

Parents: focus more on **G O D** than **M V P** or **G P A**.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 13, 2012

QUICK OVERVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. This weekend, Chris shared the story of how part of being a parent is repeating things over and over to the kids. Can you think of anything you repeat to your friends, family or kids over and over again?

2. Surprisingly, an idol doesn't have to be a bad thing; it can be something that is good, but takes our focus off God or other priorities. Take a minute and list a number of good things in your life in the categories below:

- People
- Work / School
- Abilities / Hobbies / Interests
- Prized possessions

Is there one or two that could possibly take too much of your time and focus and become a "god thing" instead of a "good thing"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. For many of us, it was probably good news to hear that you're not the only one who needs to be reminded of how God wants us to live. Below are three instances of Paul reminding Timothy and Titus of things they already knew. As you read through each passage, jot down the reminders he gave them.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. [7] For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. [NIV]

2 Timothy 2:14-16

Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. [15] Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. [16] Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. [NIV]

Titus 3:1-2

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, [2] to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. [NIV]

Looking back at the list you made above, which reminder is the best one for you to hear? Why?

2. This weekend, we heard about the importance of personally “cleaning your house” and the long-term danger of being 5 degrees off. We see the same being true in the church as Paul in 1 Timothy 4 gives Timothy instructions on cleaning up false teaching and staying headed in the right direction. As you read 1 Timothy 4:1-10, what observations do you have about cleaning up and avoiding being 5 degrees off?

1 Timothy 4:1-10

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. [2] Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. [3] They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. [4] For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, [5] because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

[6] If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. [7] Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. [8] For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for

both the present life and the life to come.

[9] This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance [10] (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. [NIV]

Have you ever found yourself challenged in putting into action what Paul is calling Timothy to do and to avoid? If so, explain.

3. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul gives Timothy instructions on how to be an example to those around him. Make a list of all five below. What might be an example of someone being 5 degrees off in each area?

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. [NIV]

Are there any adjustments you need to make in one of the five areas above? If so, explain.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Josiah's first step of re-aligning started with God's Word. We also can see the importance of God's Word in our lives in 1 Timothy 4:13,15. Are there any adjustments you need to make in keeping God's Word at the center of your life?

1 Timothy 4:13, 15

[13] Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

[15] Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. [NIV]

Possible ideas:

- *Spending a little more time reading the Bible, praying, or memorizing Scripture, listening to the Bible*
- *More focus on or time thinking through the sermon or Growth Group Homework*
- *Process what you're reading, learning, being challenged with, or questioning with some friends or your group*
- *Other*

2. Looking back at this weekend's teaching and study, are there any 5 degree changes you would like your group to pray about?

Prayer Requests:

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