

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 20, 2013

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to wear a fashion style from the past for one week without fear of ridicule, which would you choose? (It can't be a style you already wear now.)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Renaissance | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip-Hop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grunge | <input type="checkbox"/> Greaser | <input type="checkbox"/> 1920s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hippie | <input type="checkbox"/> 1980s | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disco | <input type="checkbox"/> Hipster | _____ |

2. Larry talked about the importance of the influence we have in the lives of others. Take a moment and think about a few people that have had a positive influence in your life. What was it about them that caused this influence?

What consequences have you had to live with that came as a result of someone else's bad or sinful decisions that have affected you?

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

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We live in a very individualistic society in which many of us function as if we're independent from those around us. The New Testament paints a much different picture of what it means to be a part of God's family. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the human body as an analogy of how Christians are to relate to one another. As you read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31, what are some of the things that catch your attention in regards to how God wants us to function as part of his family.

Can you think of ways you've benefited from others playing their roles?

Can you think of any examples of how the team (aka the body of believers) might be hindered when someone isn't willing to play their role?

2. In this weekend's teaching, Larry reminded us that our righteousness affects other people. The reality is that what we do or say will often affect and influence those around us just as it did in Abraham's time. King Solomon had great influence in his life. What attitudes do you see

reflected in his prayer in 1 Kings 3:7-10 that could help explain why he had such great influence?

Why do you think those attitudes are important for having a positive influence?

Can you think of any reasons why we all seem to struggle with consistently having these attitudes?

3. Most of us have had to live with the consequences of other people's bad or sinful decisions. Their choice to use their influence negatively can have a major and often lasting impact on us. How could the following verses help someone who is facing this kind of situation?

Romans 5:3-4

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

What is most challenging to you about applying the principles in these verses in your life?

TAKING IT HOME

As you think about the influence you have on other people, is there anything from this week's sermon or homework that you think would help you to have a more positive influence.

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 20, 2013

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to wear a fashion style from the past for one week without fear of ridicule, which would you choose? (It can't be a style you already wear now.)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Renaissance | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip-Hop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grunge | <input type="checkbox"/> Greaser | <input type="checkbox"/> 1920s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hippie | <input type="checkbox"/> 1980s | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disco | <input type="checkbox"/> Hipster | _____ |

2. Larry talked about the importance of the influence we have in the lives of others. Take a moment and think about a few people that have had a positive influence in your life. What was it about them that caused this influence?

What consequences have you had to live with that came as a result of someone else's bad or sinful decisions that have affected you?

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

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We live in a very individualistic society in which many of us function as if we're independent from those around us. The New Testament paints a much different picture of what it means to be a part of God's family. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the human body as an analogy of how Christians are to relate to one another. As you read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31, what are some of the things that catch your attention in regards to how God wants us to function as part of his family.

1 Corinthians 12:14-31

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. [15] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? [18] But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. [19] If they were all one part, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

[21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" [22] On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, [24] while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, [25] so that there should be no division in

the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. [26] If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

[27] Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. [28] And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30] Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? [31] But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And now I will show you the most excellent way. [NIV]

Can you think of ways you've benefited from others playing their roles?

Can you think of any examples of how the team (aka the body of believers) might be hindered when someone isn't willing to play their role?

2. In this weekend's teaching, Larry reminded us that our righteousness affects other people. The reality is that what we do or say will often affect and influence those around us just as it did in Abraham's time. King Solomon had great influence in his life. What attitudes do you see reflected in his prayer in 1 Kings 3:7-10 that could help explain why he had such great influence?

1 Kings 3:7-10

"Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. [8] Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. [9] So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

[10] The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. [NIV]

Why do you think those attitudes are important for having a positive influence?

Can you think of any reasons why we all seem to struggle with consistently having these attitudes?

3. Most of us have had to live with the consequences of other people's bad or sinful decisions. Their choice to use their influence negatively can have a major and often lasting impact on us. How could the following verses help someone who is facing this kind of situation?

Romans 5:3-4

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; [4] perseverance, character; and character, hope. [NIV]

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. [NIV]

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. [17] For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [NIV]

What is most challenging to you about applying the principles in these verses in your life?

TAKING IT HOME

As you think about the influence you have on other people, is there anything from this week's sermon or homework that you think would help you to have a more positive influence.

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.