

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 27, 2013

QUICK REVIEW: 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 week, we saw how the crisis Lot found himself in was caused by a series of bad decisions. The flip side is also true in that a series of good decisions can put us in good situations. Can you think of a series of small decisions that led you to join your Growth Group and/or make a commitment to follow Jesus?

2. Chris made it clear that there's nothing wrong with our desire (or Lot's) to climb the ladder of success. In fact, God has given us the desire to be successful and enjoy all good things (Ephesians 2:10, 1 Timothy 6:17, 1 Corinthians 15:58). Yet, as we saw with Lot, we can end up in the wrong place when trying to fulfill our desires. What are some examples of the desires below, gone bad?

Influence

Financial Success

Sexual Desire

Status

Self Worth

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The slippery slope of sin and distorted desires usually isn't just one bad decision, but a series of decisions that continue to take us in the wrong direction. How might the following verses help you keep your compass calibrated in the right direction, avoiding Sodom and keeping your desires headed in the right direction?

Proverbs 27:12

Romans 6:11–14

Proverbs 16:20

Which of the verses above do you think people tend to take the least seriously?

Is there one you tend to pay less attention to than the others? If so, explain.

2. None of us like admitting we're too close to or living in Sodom, as Lot was. In fact, it can be quite humbling and frightening to admit. What hope and direction do the following verses give you to "flee" and "not turn back"?

Proverbs 18:12

I John 1:9-10

James 5:16

Hebrews 4:14-16

James 4:6

Which of these verses is most important for you to remember?

3. Proverbs 7:6-10, 21-23 gives us an example of a young man not being aware of the progression of bad decisions, similar to Lot. As you read the passage, identify the progression and bad decisions he made that brought him to his downfall?

Are there any situations in any area of your life that you need to stay away from to avoid this kind of progression or temptation?

TAKING IT HOME

Chris gave us four signs that may indicate we're living closer to Sodom than we think. Are there any re-alignments you're thinking you need to make, or would like your group to pray for you about?

Do you have any other prayer requests you'd like to share with your group?

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Proverbs 27:12

The prudent see danger and take refuge,
but the simple keep going and suffer for it. [NIV]

Romans 6:11-14

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. [13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer

yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. [14] For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:20

Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers,
and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord. [NIV]

Which of the verses above do you think people tend to take the least seriously?

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2. None of us like admitting we're too close to or living in Sodom, as Lot was. In fact, it can be quite humbling and frightening to admit. What hope and direction do the following verses give you to "flee" and "not turn back"?

Proverbs 18:12

Before his downfall a man's heart is proud,
but humility comes before honor. [NIV]

1 John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. [NIV]

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. [NIV]

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. [NIV]

James 4:6

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble." [NIV]

Which of these verses is most important for you to remember?

3. Proverbs 7:6-10, 21-23 gives us an example of a young man not being aware of the progression of bad decisions, similar to Lot. As you read the passage, identify the progression and bad decisions he made that brought him to his downfall?

Proverbs 7:6-10

At the window of my house
I looked out through the lattice.
[7] I saw among the simple,
I noticed among the young men,
a youth who lacked judgment.
[8] He was going down the street near her corner,
walking along in the direction of her house
[9] at twilight, as the day was fading,
as the dark of night set in.
[10] Then out came a woman to meet him,
dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. [NIV]

Proverbs 7:21-23

With persuasive words she led him astray;
she seduced him with her smooth talk.
[22] All at once he followed her
like an ox going to the slaughter,
like a deer stepping into a noose
[23] till an arrow pierces his liver,
like a bird darting into a snare,
little knowing it will cost him his life. [NIV]

Are there any situations in any area of your life that you need to stay away from to avoid this kind of progression or temptation?

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