

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 10, 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. What was your reaction to Chris' statement this weekend, "... God will give you exactly what you want"?

2. The Bible is full of promises God has made to those who follow him. Can you think of a promise that has been especially encouraging or meaningful to you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We've seen in the life of Abraham that he continually decided to play by his own rules and not "bank" on God to come through on his promise. Though it might seem crazy from our vantage point that Abraham did this, it actually may be something we do more often than we realize. Jot down the promise given in each passage below, then write down any examples you can think of that reveal how we're not trusting God's promises but instead are playing by our own rules.

James 1:2-4

Romans 8:38-39

I John 1:9

1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. This week we saw how God came alongside Hagar in the midst of her isolation and abandonment. There's no doubt that Hagar felt like God had left the scene. When life hits hard, for whatever reason, it's not odd to wonder if God is really at work or present. What hope and encouragement do you receive from Psalm 34 that God wants to come alongside you and help?

3. Chris said this weekend that God will give us exactly what we want! He added to that statement that no matter what we say is important to us, what we actually pursue is what's important to us. How do the following verses help you check your passions and pursuits to see if they really are lining up with where you think you're headed?

Matthew 6:19-21

Matthew 6:33

1 John 2:4-6

1 Peter 4:8-11

Thinking about what you just read, take a look at your negotiable time over the past 30 to 60 days. Are there any adjustments you'd like to make?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what's the most important thing for you to remember?

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

Prayer Requests:

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James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. [NIV]

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NIV]

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. [NIV]

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. [NIV]

2. This week we saw how God came alongside Hagar in the midst of her isolation and abandonment. There's no doubt that Hagar felt like God had left the scene. When life hits hard, for whatever reason, it's not odd to wonder if God is really at work or present. What hope and encouragement do you receive from Psalm 34 that God wants to come alongside you and help?

Psalm 34:1-22

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he left.

I will extol the Lord at all times;

his praise will always be on my lips.

[2] My soul will boast in the Lord;

let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

[3] Glorify the Lord with me;

let us exalt his name together.

[4] I sought the Lord, and he answered me;

he delivered me from all my fears.

[5] Those who look to him are radiant;

their faces are never covered with shame.

[6] This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;

he saved him out of all his troubles.

[7] The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,

and he delivers them.

[8] Taste and see that the Lord is good;

blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

[9] Fear the Lord, you his saints,

for those who fear him lack nothing.

[10] The lions may grow weak and hungry,

but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

[11] Come, my children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

[12] Whoever of you loves life

and desires to see many good days,

[13] keep your tongue from evil

and your lips from speaking lies.

[14] Turn from evil and do good;

seek peace and pursue it.

[15] The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous

and his ears are attentive to their cry;

[16] the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,

to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

[17] The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

he delivers them from all their troubles.

[18] The Lord is close to the brokenhearted

and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

[19] A righteous man may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;

[20] he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.

[21] Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

[22] The Lord redeems his servants;
no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him. [NIV]

3. Chris said this weekend that God will give us exactly what we want! He added to that statement that no matter what we say is important to us, what we actually pursue is what's important to us. How do the following verses help you check your passions and pursuits to see if they really are lining up with where you think you're headed?

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [NIV]

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. [NIV]

1 John 2:4-6

The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [5] But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: [6] Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. [NIV]

1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. [NIV]

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