

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 3, 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 Chris talked about the importance of leaving a legacy. When you think of leaving a legacy, what are some of the first things that come to mind?

2. As we have studied Abraham's life over the past weeks, we have seen how he changed and how his character grew over the years. Looking back on your own life can you think of how who you are has changed? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. None of us want to leave a legacy of being known we were all about our possessions or titles. That's why the enemy works subtly, yet powerfully, to blind us to the benefits and simplicity of generosity and serving others. What motivations and/or strategies do the following verses give to encourage us to be generous and serve others?

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Galatians 6:9-10

Matthew 25:31-36, 41-46

Which of these verses catches your attention the most and why?

2. The legacy we leave with those closest to us, whether it's our spouse, family member, or close friend, thrives or dies based on how we treat them. Here are some verses that speak to how we treat one another. If married, jot down how they apply specifically to your marriage. If single, jot down how they apply to the relationships that are most important to you. (Note: each passage has multiple principles.)

Romans 12:10-13

Colossians 3:12-14

Ephesians 4:25-26

Looking forward to the day those around you celebrate your life at your memorial, what one or two things do you hope those closest say is part of your legacy?

Is there anything you need to do differently now to help make that happen?

3. It's never easy to experience the loss of a person we are close to. We see this also to be true for Abraham as he wept over the loss of Sarah in Genesis 23:2. Part of the hope we have in the midst of the pain when someone passes is that we can celebrate their life and the legacy they have left. Yet mourning their loss should not be ignored or suppressed – in fact it's healthy. James Boice said, "To weep for a loved one is to show that we have been close, that the loss is keenly felt, and that death is an enemy." How does Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reinforce the importance of allowing ourselves to mourn?

Thinking back on the loss of someone close to you, can you think of how mourning their loss was helpful and/or challenging to you? If so, explain.

TAKING IT HOME

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

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

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2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Generosity Encouraged

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [NIV]

Galatians 6:9-10

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. [NIV]

Matthew 25:31-36

The Sheep and the Goats

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to

drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ [NIV]

Matthew 25:41-46

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. [NIV]

Which of these verses catches your attention the most and why?

2. The legacy we leave with those closest to us, whether it’s our spouse, family member, or close friend, thrives or dies based on how we treat them. Here are some verses that speak to how we treat one another. If married, jot down how they apply specifically to your marriage. If single, jot down how they apply to the relationships that are most important to you. (Note: each passage has multiple principles.)

Romans 12:10-13

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. [NIV]

Colossians 3:12-14

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. [NIV]

Ephesians 4:25-26

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, [NIV]

Looking forward to the day those around you celebrate your life at your memorial, what one or two things do you hope those closest say is part of your legacy?

Is there anything you need to do differently now to help make that happen?

3. It's never easy to experience the loss of a person we are close to. We see this also to be true for Abraham as he wept over the loss of Sarah in Genesis 23:2. Part of the hope we have in the midst of the pain when someone passes is that we can celebrate their life and the legacy they have left. Yet mourning their loss should not be ignored or suppressed – in fact it's healthy. James Boice said, "To weep for a loved one is to show that we have been close, that the loss is keenly felt, and that death is an enemy." How does Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reinforce the importance of allowing ourselves to mourn?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A Time for Everything

- 1 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace. [NIV]

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