

# **Growth Group Homework**

For the week of April 14, 2013

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## **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. Larry shared that whenever we try to rush God's timing everything slows down. Have you ever seen this to be true in your own life? If so, explain what happened.

2. Jacob and Job had radically different responses to God. One made the easy way harder and the other the hard way easier. Can you think of anyone you know who has made the easy way harder?

How about someone who has made the hard way easier?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. After fleeing from home to save his life, Jacob found himself alone, broke, and undoubtedly feeling abandoned by God. Then God showed up in a dream and revealed his plan, provision, and protection for him. At times we can also begin to think or feel that God isn't there for us or he isn't coming through as he promised. How does 2 Kings 6:8-17 encourage you to remember that God is active in these kinds of situations beyond what you know?

Have you ever had a situation similar to the servant where you sensed God's presence or purpose being carried out far beyond what you initially thought?

How could Philippians 1:3-6 build your confidence and hope as a follower of Christ?

2. We heard this weekend how God is faithful to keep his promises. What is also true is that some of God's promises come with an "if" clause, meaning there is something we need to do in order to experience the promise. In the following passages, identify the promise God is making and what our responsibility is to see the promise fulfilled.

John 15:5-8

1 John 1:6-10

Matthew 11:28-30

Which of these responsibilities is the hardest for you to do?

3. Weekend of Service is less than two weeks away. We will all bring our own unique expectations into the weekend's projects. Regardless of how our experience matches up with those expectations, it will be our attitudes and actions that will make the biggest difference. How can the following verses shape your attitude and actions throughout this experience?

Matthew 25:37-40

John 13:12-17

Romans 12:3

1 Peter 3:15

If someone were to ask you, "Why are you doing this project?", how could you answer them in light of these passages?

If you've served in the past, how did your project line up with your expectations?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Can you think of anything you're doing that could be making the easy way harder for you?

2. Is there a promise of God that you are finding difficult to believe God will be faithful to fulfill?

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### **Pray for Weekend of Service:**

- ⇒ That we can fill the final spots needed to complete all the projects
- ⇒ For the many details and gathering of resources that needs to happen during these final weeks.
- ⇒ That all will catch the joy of serving and be flexible with servants' hearts as we serve together
- ⇒ That we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community, making an impact for Jesus.

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## DIGGING DEEPER

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### 2 Kings 6:8-17

Elisha Traps Blinded Arameans

8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

12 "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

13 "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. [NIV]

Have you ever had a situation similar to the servant where you sensed God's presence or purpose being carried out far beyond what you initially thought?

How could Philippians 1:3-6 build your confidence and hope as a follower of Christ?

### **Philippians 1:3-6**

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. [NIV]

2. We heard this weekend how God is faithful to keep his promises. What is also true is that some of God’s promises come with an “if” clause, meaning there is something we need to do in order to experience the promise. In the following passages, identify the promise God is making and what our responsibility is to see the promise fulfilled.

### **John 15:5-8**

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. [NIV]

### **1 John 1:6-10**

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 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 is not in us. [NIV]

**Matthew 11:28-30**

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” [NIV]

Which of these responsibilities is the hardest for you to do?

3. Weekend of Service is less than two weeks away. We will all bring our own unique expectations into the weekend’s projects. Regardless of how our experience matches up with those expectations, it will be our attitudes and actions that will make the biggest difference. How can the following verses shape your attitude and actions throughout this experience?

**Matthew 25:37-40**

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ [NIV]

**John 13:12-17**

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. [NIV]

**Romans 12:3**

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. [NIV]

**1 Peter 3:15**

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [NIV]

If someone were to ask you, "Why are you doing this project?", how could you answer them in light of these passages?

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## **TAKING IT HOME**

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