

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 19, 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 heard how Jacob learned his lesson the hard way. Looking back in your life, can you think of any lessons you too learned the hard way? If so, do you still have any kind of limp?

2. Which one of the two statements on "strength and weakness" in this week's teaching caught your attention the most?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend, we saw how Jacob trusted in his own strength—his ingenuity and shrewdness—rather than on God. Another person in the Bible who had reason to put confidence in his skills, abilities and heritage was the Apostle Paul. What do you learn in Philippians 3:4-11 about Paul's attitude toward the strengths in his life?

Can you think of anything in your life that could tempt you to take the credit and put the focus on your own ability or strength?

2. There is nothing wrong with being confident in our abilities. It's being prideful that gets us into a wrestling match with God and causes us to have to learn something the hard way. Humility is a character quality that can help us avoid the stubbornness that causes us to take on God like Jacob did. How do the following verses help us evaluate if we really are humble and understand who we are and who God is?

James 3:13

Romans 3:23

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Proverbs 9:7-9

Rank the passages above in order from 1 to 4 according to which is most helpful for you in putting humility into action?

3. Remaining humble and keeping arrogance at bay even in the little things can be a challenge for anyone. In the face of the following situations, first write down what an arrogant response could look like. Then jot down how the related Scriptures could help you think and respond better.

Your co-worker or friend confronts you about a questionable decision you made. (Check out Proverbs 15:31-33)

You have been hurt by another person who was clearly in the wrong. (Check out Colossians 3:12-14)

You are doing something good and hope people notice you doing it. (Check out 1 Peter 2:12)

TAKING IT HOME

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

Is there something you're wrestling with God about that you'd like prayer for?



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

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Philippians 3:4-11

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.[NIV]

Can you think of anything in your life that could tempt you to take the credit and put the focus on your own ability or strength?

2. There is nothing wrong with being confident in our abilities. It's being prideful that gets us into a wrestling match with God and causes us to have to learn something the hard way. Humility is a character quality that can help us avoid the stubbornness that causes us to take on God like Jacob did. How do the following verses help us evaluate if we really are humble and understand who we are and who God is?

James 3:13

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [NIV]

Romans 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [NIV]

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. [NIV]

Proverbs 9:7-9

7 Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;
whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.

8 Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you;
rebuke the wise and they will love you.

9 Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. [NIV]

Rank the passages above in order from 1 to 4 according to which is most helpful for you in putting humility into action?

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Your co-worker or friend confronts you about a questionable decision you made. (Check out Proverbs 15:31-33)

Proverbs 15:31-33

31 Whoever heeds life-giving correction
will be at home among the wise.

32 Those who disregard discipline despise themselves,
but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.

33 Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord,
and humility comes before honor. [NIV]

You have been hurt by another person who was clearly in the wrong. (Check out Colossians 3:12-14)

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]

You are doing something good and hope people notice you doing it. (Check out 1 Peter 2:12)

1 Peter 2:12

12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. [NIV]

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