

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 19, 2014

MY STORY

1. Would you rather ...

Go way back in time and meet your ancestors

-or-

Go way in the future and meet your great-grandchildren

Work more hours per day, but fewer days

-or-

Work fewer hours per day, but more days

Free Starbucks for a year

-or-

Free iTunes for a year

Invisibility and Teleportation

-or-

Ability to Read Minds and Fly

Underdressed

-or-

Overdressed

2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In chapter one of 1 Peter, we see Peter laying important foundations for what it's going to take to live your life for Jesus and make it through life's storms. In this weekend's sermon, we heard that to live this "new life" as a follower of Christ, God's Word has to be alive in us. That's why hearing God's Word each weekend, and studying it further and applying it to our lives in Growth Groups is so important. What do the following verses tell us about how to keep God's Word alive in our lives?

Psalm 119:9-16

James 1:22-24

Is there anything in the above verses about having God's Word in your life that is challenging for you?

Are there any adjustments you want to make to keep God's Word active in your life? If so, explain.

2. We heard this weekend how important the “therefore” in 1 Peter 1:13 is to introduce us to living the new life. How do the following verses reinforce and add to your understanding of how God and his Spirit change and work in the lives of those who follow him?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Colossians 3:1-4

Romans 8:26-27

Which one of these changes catches your attention the most?

3. Thinking of life here on earth as temporary can be good news, but can also be challenging to keep in perspective. How do the following verses add purpose to what it means to live here on earth as “foreigners”?

2 Corinthians 5:18–21

Ephesians 2:19–22

TAKING IT HOME

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

Bible Study Challenge – Set aside 15-20 minutes sometime this week and read through the book of 1 Peter. Underline anything that catches your attention.

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 19, 2014

MY STORY

1. Would you rather ...

Go way back in time and meet your ancestors

-or-

Go way in the future and meet your great-grandchildren

Work more hours per day, but fewer days

-or-

Work fewer hours per day, but more days

Free Starbucks for a year

-or-

Free iTunes for a year

Invisibility and Teleportation

-or-

Ability to Read Minds and Fly

Underdressed

-or-

Overdressed

2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In chapter one of 1 Peter, we see Peter laying important foundations for what it's going to take to live your life for Jesus and make it through life's storms. In this weekend's sermon, we heard that to live this "new life" as a follower of Christ, God's Word has to be alive in us. That's why hearing God's Word each weekend, and studying it further and applying it to our lives in Growth Groups is so important. What do the following verses tell us about how to keep God's Word alive in our lives?

Psalm 119:9-16

Beth

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

¹² Praise be to you, Lord;

teach me your decrees.

¹³ With my lips I recount

all the laws that come from your mouth.

- ¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.
¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word. [NIV]

James 1:22-24

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [NIV]

Is there anything in the above verses about having God's Word in your life that is challenging for you?

Are there any adjustments you want to make to keep God's Word active in your life? If so, explain.

2. We heard this weekend how important the "therefore" in 1 Peter 1:13 is to introduce us to living the new life. How do the following verses reinforce and add to your understanding of how God and his Spirit change and work in the lives of those who follow him?

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! [NIV]

Colossians 3:1-4

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. [NIV]

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. [NIV]

Which one of these changes catches your attention the most?

3. Thinking of life here on earth as temporary can be good news, but can also be challenging to keep in perspective. How do the following verses add purpose to what it means to live here on earth as "foreigners"?

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [NIV]

Ephesians 2:19–22

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

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

Bible Study Challenge – Set aside 15-20 minutes sometime this week and read through the book of 1 Peter. Underline anything that catches your attention.

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.