

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 27, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

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

MY STORY

1. Who is the best leader you've ever personally been around? What did that person do that caused you to consider him or her to be a good leader?

2. Have you ever had a leader (a boss, coach, teacher, or other) who "larded it" over you? How did you respond to that kind of leadership?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Thinking like a shepherd means we're willing to put other people before ourselves. In 3 John 1:9, a church leader named Diotrephes is identified as someone who "loves to be first." Jesus gave us a completely different example of what it means to be a leader and a person of influence. Read the following verses and write down what you find most challenging about the attitude expressed in them?

Mark 9:35

Mark 10:43-44

Luke 22:26

Take a moment and evaluate the various environments where you may have leadership or influence (work, school, home, church, friendships). In which of these environments do you find Diotrephes' attitude showing up the most in your life?

In which of these environments do you find it easiest to serve others?

Oftentimes we find it hardest to serve those who are closest to us. Why do you think that is?

2. We heard this weekend of the important role character plays in leading by example. In any position of influence, “what we are is what we’ll get.” God is committed to developing godly character in us but we each have a part to play in that process. What insights do you see about strong character and how it's developed in 2 Peter 1:3-9?

Can you think of any potential roadblocks that keep people from developing godly character?

How could Philippians 2:12-13 help you maintain balance as you pursue character growth?

Which of the character qualities mentioned in the passage would you most like to see developed in your life?

3. To lead well involves leading with a long-range perspective. That’s also true for anyone who serves or helps others. The Apostle Paul was consistently able to maintain a long-term perspective despite facing many challenges and difficulties. What do you see in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 that helps explain how he was able to maintain his perspective in the face of those difficulties?

What is most challenging to you about developing the long-term perspective found in this passage?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

2. Which of the four attributes of leading well would you most like to see growth in?

Can you think of a step you can take to begin that growth?

Prayer Requests:

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1. Who is the best leader you've ever personally been around? What did that person do that caused you to consider him or her to be a good leader?

2. Have you ever had a leader (a boss, coach, teacher, or other) who "lorded it" over you? How did you respond to that kind of leadership?

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Mark 9:35

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." [NIV]

Mark 10:43-44

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. [NIV]

Luke 22:26

But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. [NIV]

Take a moment and evaluate the various environments where you may have leadership or influence (work, school, home, church, friendships). In which of these environments do you find Diotrephes' attitude showing up the most in your life?

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2 Peter 1:3-9

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. [NIV]

Can you think of any potential roadblocks that keep people from developing godly character?

How could Philippians 2:12-13 help you maintain balance as you pursue character growth?

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. [NIV]

Which of the character qualities mentioned in the passage would you most like to see developed in your life?

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2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [NIV]

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