

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 4, 2014

## QUICK REVIEW

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

## MY STORY

1. When you were a kid, who was the most patient/willing-to-wait adult in your life?
2. Can you think of any examples of how your view of humility and submission has changed over the years? If so, explain.

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Peter's advice on building a "life resume" focused on developing these three traits: submission, humility and patience (waiting). A biblical example of someone who failed to develop these traits was King Saul. A biblical example of someone that was successful was Moses. As you read each of their stories, write down your findings in the corresponding columns.

- Saul: 1 Samuel 13:8-14 & 18:5-9
- Moses: Exodus 18:13-26 & Hebrews 11:24-28

Trait	How Saul lacked... How Moses demonstrated...	Consequences/Results
Submission		
Humility		
Patience		

Which of these three traits is strongest in your life?

Which one(s) do you most need to grow in?

Can you think of any times in the past when you have experienced either the benefit of having one or more of these in your life, or the consequences of lacking one or more of them in your life? If so, explain.

2. One of the biggest challenges most of us encounter when it comes to putting the “Resume Essentials” into action is our own pride and arrogance. 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)

A person you’ve had a lot of conflict with at work gets fired.  
(Check out Proverbs 24:17)

3. Waiting for God’s timing versus our own can be no small challenge. One way to help with our ability to be patient when this occurs is to be aware that God is still at work. What purposes do the following passages suggest for why God has us wait?

2 Peter 3:8-9

Romans 5:3-5

Psalm 13 is the prayer of a person who is familiar with waiting. What can you learn from this Psalm about what a time of waiting looks like?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

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

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Prayer Requests:

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## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Peter's advice on building a "life resume" focused on developing these three traits: submission, humility and patience (waiting). A biblical example of someone who failed to develop these traits was King Saul. A biblical example of someone that was successful was Moses. As you read each of their stories, write down your findings in the corresponding columns.

- Saul: 1 Samuel 13:8-14 & 18:5-9
- Moses: Exodus 18:13-26 & Hebrews 11:24-28

### Saul: 1 Samuel 13:8-14 & 18:5-9

He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. 9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

5 Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. 7 As they danced, they sang:

"Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands."

8 Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" 9 And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

13 “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.” [NIV]

**Moses: Exodus 18:13-26 & Hebrews 11:24-28**

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. 14 When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”

15 Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. 16 Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and instructions.”

17 Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. 19 Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him. 20 Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. 21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22 Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. 23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”

24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. 25 He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 26 They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. [NIV]

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Which of these three traits is strongest in your life?

Which one(s) do you most need to grow in?

Can you think of any times in the past when you have experienced either the benefit of having one or more of these in your life, or the consequences of lacking one or more of them in your life? If so, explain.

2. One of the biggest challenges most of us encounter when it comes to putting the “Resume Essentials” into action is our own pride and arrogance. 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)

**Proverbs 15:31-33**

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**

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]

A person you’ve had a lot of conflict with at work gets fired.  
(Check out Proverbs 24:17)

**Proverbs 24:17**

Do not gloat when your enemy falls;  
when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice [NIV]

3. Waiting for God's timing versus our own can be no small challenge. One way to help with our ability to be patient when this occurs is to be aware that God is still at work. What purposes do the following passages suggest for why God has us wait?

**2 Peter 3:8-9**

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. [NIV]

**Romans 5:3-5**

Not only so, but we[a] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. [NIV]

Psalm 13 is the prayer of a person who is familiar with waiting. What can you learn from this Psalm about what a time of waiting looks like?

**Psalm 13**

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"

and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing the Lord's praise,

for he has been good to me. [NIV]

## **TAKING IT HOME**

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

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