

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 21, 2014

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...

- Have the ability to fly or teleport?
- Have fingers as long as your legs or legs as long as your fingers?
- Be able to talk with any animal or speak every language?

2. How do you think most people would define what it means to fear God?

3. This week we launched our new series, Heroes vs. Zeros. 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. This weekend we heard about the importance of never forgetting that we serve a "high-voltage" God. This kind of description of God can be intimidating, yet understanding this attribute of God is important to our spiritual health. How do the following verses help us understand where a healthy fear of God can take us?

Psalm 103:11-14

Proverbs 16:6

Proverbs 15:33

Can you think of any examples in your own life of how your fear of God has helped you?

Are there any of these verses that seem difficult to relate to?

2. It's no secret that there is power in numbers. It's why God has designed us with an innate desire to connect, relate and team up with others. It is also no surprise that the attitudes and actions of those we spend the most time with are vital for our success. As you read the story of a group of friends in Mark 2:1-5, write down whatever attitudes and actions they needed to accomplish the task at hand.

Looking back at what you just wrote, can you think of any reasons why some would find it easy to team together like this, while others find it challenging? If so, explain.

3. The power of a community and building the kind of friendships that are going to help us make it through our own “40 days on the mountain” doesn’t happen by accident – it didn’t work for the Israelites and it won’t work for us. The book of Proverbs gives us some practical advice on how to move toward making this happen. Jot down what each of the following verses say about how to be a good friend, building community and quality friendships.

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:13

Proverbs 27:5-6

Which of these verses is most important for you to remember when it comes to being a friend and building community?

TAKING IT HOME

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

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

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in 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 is required to pray out loud.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 21, 2014

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...

- Have the ability to fly or teleport?
- Have fingers as long as your legs or legs as long as your fingers?
- Be able to talk with any animal or speak every language?

2. How do you think most people would define what it means to fear God?

3. This week we launched our new series, Heroes vs. Zeros. 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. This weekend we heard about the importance of never forgetting that we serve a “high-voltage” God. This kind of description of God can be intimidating, yet understanding this attribute of God is important to our spiritual health. How do the following verses help us understand where a healthy fear of God can take us?

Psalm 103:11-14

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

14 for he knows how we are formed,

he remembers that we are dust. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:6

6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for;

through the fear of the Lord evil is avoided. [NIV]

Proverbs 15:33

33 Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord,

and humility comes before honor. [NIV]

Can you think of any examples in your own life of how your fear of God has helped you?

Are there any of these verses that seem difficult to relate to?

2. It's no secret that there is power in numbers. It's why God has designed us with an innate desire to connect, relate and team up with others. It is also no surprise that the attitudes and actions of those we spend the most time with are vital for our success. As you read the story of a group of friends in Mark 2:1-5, write down whatever attitudes and actions they needed to accomplish the task at hand.

Mark 2:1-5

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

2:1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." [NIV]

Looking back at what you just wrote, can you think of any reasons why some would find it easy to team together like this, while others find it challenging? If so, explain.

3. The power of a community and building the kind of friendships that are going to help us make it through our own "40 days on the mountain" doesn't happen by accident – it didn't work for the Israelites and it won't work for us. The book of Proverbs gives us some practical advice on how to move toward making this happen. Jot down what each of the following verses say about how to be a good friend, building community and quality friendships.

Proverbs 12:18

18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing. [NIV]

Proverbs 17:9

9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense,
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. [NIV]

Proverbs 17:17

17 A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity. [NIV]

Proverbs 18:13

13 To answer before listening—
that is folly and shame. [NIV]

Proverbs 27:5-6

5 Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.
6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses. [NIV]

Which of these verses is most important for you to remember when it comes to being a friend and building community?

TAKING IT HOME

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

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

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in 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 is required to pray out loud.