

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 5, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *Heroes Follow God, Not Their Gut*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of any situations in your life (small or large) when someone else's courage to do what God was calling them to do (or not do) encouraged you to do the same? If so, explain.

2. What was your first response when you heard Chris say, "God doesn't need you?"

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend, we heard that we need to trust God and not our gut. The Scriptures below give us a picture of how Jesus and Paul both encounter situations where they could have easily gone with their gut and not God's call. As you read through each passage, what could have been some reasons they would choose to go with their "gut" and not "God's call?"

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Matthew 26:36-39

What might be some examples of going with our gut and not God's call at home, work, school or in our personal life?

2. Whether we realize it or not, whenever we make a commitment to accomplish something, we need a strategy or guide in place to keep us on track. The same is true for our commitment to follow Christ. Our culture, our own desires, and the enemy can all distract us from following through with our commitment. Fortunately for us, God has given us the Bible to help keep us on track. As you read Psalm 119:9-16, what strategies can you find that will help us get God's Word in our life to help keep us on track?

There are a variety of ways to get God's Word in our life. Which of the following do you find most effective?

Listening to it being taught

Reading it yourself
Discussing it with others
Memorizing it

Can you think of reasons why all of these methods would be important?

3. God has designed us to be influenced by one another. That's why being courageous in our obedience to follow Christ can help others do the same. What encouragement and hope do the following verses give us to continue to be courageous in following Christ?

1 Peter 1:6-7

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Which one is most important for you to remember and why?

TAKING IT HOME

What one thing do you want to make sure you remember from this week's teaching and study?

Prayer Requests:

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2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. [NIV]

Matthew 26:36-39

Gethsemane

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." [NIV]

What might be some examples of going with our gut and not God's call at home, work, school or in our personal life?

2. Whether we realize it or not, whenever we make a commitment to accomplish something, we need a strategy or guide in place to keep us on track. The same is true for our commitment to follow Christ. Our culture, our own desires, and the enemy can all distract us from following through with our commitment. Fortunately for us, God has given us the Bible to help keep us on track. As you read Psalm 119:9-16, what strategies can you find that will help us get God's Word in our life to help keep us on track?

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]

There are a variety of ways to get God's Word in our life. Which of the following do you find most effective?

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Can you think of reasons why all of these methods would be important?

3. God has designed us to be influenced by one another. That's why being courageous in our obedience to follow Christ can help others do the same. What encouragement and hope do the following verses give us to continue to be courageous in following Christ?

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. [NIV]

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 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]

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

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]

Which one is most important for you to remember and why?

TAKING IT HOME

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