

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 16, 2014

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## QUICK REVIEW

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

## MY STORY

1. When you were growing up, who were the heroes (fictional or real) you looked up to and why? What was it about them that caused you to look up to them?

2. The map we follow in life is usually determined by the hopes and dreams we're working toward. Take a moment to jot down some of the hopes and dreams you had when you were a kid.

Now, jot down some of the hopes and dreams you have now and are working toward. How are they the same or different from when you were a kid?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Most of us understand there's nothing wrong with gaining more power and influence. Yet this week we saw how Abimelech's thirst for power created a map to his own demise. God's remedy to avoid this kind of downfall is somewhat counter-intuitive – it's not to become powerless, but rather to redirect our focus on what to be strong or powerful in. As you read Matthew 20:24-28, how does Jesus redirect the focus of how our "power" should be applied?

Can you think of any settings or situations at home, work or socially that you wish you had more power to apply what Jesus is telling us?

How might putting 2 Timothy 1:7 into action help strengthen your ability to serve as Jesus calls you to?

2. We've all experienced how the power of our words can take us in the right direction or cause us to end up somewhere we really didn't want to be. This week we saw in the bar scene what happened to Gaal, the son of Ebed, as he let his words run wild. When it comes to our speech and what we say, what guidelines are given in the Scriptures below?

Ephesians 4:15

Proverbs 3:27

Proverbs 15:23

Proverbs 15:30

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

3. Having our own hopes and dreams for the future doesn't necessarily mean we're off God's map. Take a moment and look back at what you wrote down in the "My Story" section about the hopes and dreams you're trying to achieve right now. How might the following verses help you evaluate if you're staying on God's road map or moving in the wrong direction?

Matthew 22:37-40

Colossians 3:23-25

Galatians 5:13-15

Are there any other verses you would add to this list that you have found useful?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

As you look back on this week's teaching and study, what's most important for you to remember?

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Prayer Requests:

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### Matthew 20:24-28

24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." [NIV]

Can you think of any settings or situations at home, work or socially that you wish you had more power to apply what Jesus is telling us?

How might putting 2 Timothy 1:7 into action help strengthen your ability to serve as Jesus calls you to?

**2 Timothy 1:7**

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. [NIV]

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**Ephesians 4:15**

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. [NIV]

**Proverbs 3:27**

27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. [NIV]

**Proverbs 15:23**

23 A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word! [NIV]

**Proverbs 15:30**

30 Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. [NIV]

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

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**Matthew 22:37-40**

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." [NIV]

**Colossians 3:23-25**

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. [NIV]

**Galatians 5:13-15**

Life by the Spirit

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. [NIV]

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