

Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 1, 2014

This is our final week of the Spring Quarter. Along with an abbreviated study, you will take some time to reflect on your group experience and then have Communion together. You will also fill out Feedback Forms about your group experience and your plans for the fall. Growth Groups will take a summer break and resume the week of September 14. Thanks for being part of your Growth Group and have a great summer!

If you'd like to continue in a summer study, we plan to offer several classes over the summer. You can find a list of these classes on the back of this homework. Visit northcoastchurch.com/classes to see the most up-to-date schedule and to register.

MY STORY

1. Summer is just around the corner! Do you have any special plans, activities or prayer requests for the next few months?
2. Looking back at this weekend's teaching on "*The Traitor Within*," was there a particular point, comment, or verse that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER & TAKING IT HOME

1. None of us want to be known as the person who's blowing it. Realizing that we are giving in to temptation can be quite humbling and frightening to admit. What hope and incentive do the following verses give us when this occurs?

Proverbs 18:12

Isaiah 57:15

Hebrews 4:14-16

James 4:6

2. We often fall into sin because we don't understand how subtle temptation is. It takes us through a series of small compromises and/or unwise decisions until we are enticed into sinning. So if we want to avoid temptation or stand up to it when it comes, we need to be prepared. How could the following passages help prepare you to deal with any temptations that may come your way?

Galatians 6:7-10

Romans 6:12-13

Hebrews 2:17-18

What do you find most useful to you from these passages in helping you deal with temptation?

REMEMBERING HOW GOD WORKED

1. One of the important reasons for participation in a Growth Group is the support we have available when we face temptation. One of the keys to not falling into temptation is to not operate in isolation. Although Growth Groups are officially ending this week, can you think of any things you can do this summer to make sure you're not on your own when you face temptation?

2. Looking back at this past year, how has your Growth Group experience encouraged, challenged or helped you in your walk with Jesus and connection with other people?

REMEMBERING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Larry mentioned that "failure need not be final". One of the reasons that statement is true is because of what Christ did for us by dying for our sins. His death made his grace and forgiveness available to us. An important way to remember God's grace and forgiveness is through celebrating Communion. Communion reminds us of all that Jesus accomplished through his death on the cross and his resurrection. It is through this sacrifice that Jesus' grace and mercy are made available to us.

This week, your Growth Group will conclude by doing as the disciples did and taking Communion together. To prepare for this, read the following verses and reflect on Jesus' commitment and work in your life as you follow him.

1 Peter 2:22-25

Romans 5:7-11

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer Requests:

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Proverbs 18:12

Before a downfall the heart is haughty,
but humility comes before honor. [NIV]

Isaiah 57:15

For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite. [NIV]

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. [NIV]

James 4:6

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." [NIV]

2. We often fall into sin because we don't understand how subtle temptation is. It takes us through a series of small compromises and/or unwise decisions until we are enticed into sinning. So if we want to avoid temptation or stand up to it when it comes, we need to be prepared. How could the following passages help prepare you to deal with any temptations that may come your way?

Galatians 6:7-10

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. [NIV]

Romans 6:12-13

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. [NIV]

Hebrews 2:17-18

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. [NIV]

What do you find most useful to you from these passages in helping you deal with temptation?

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1 Peter 2:22-25

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 25 For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. [NIV]

Romans 5:7-11

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. [NIV]

Prayer Requests:

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