

## **Growth Group Homework**

For the week of February 22, 2015

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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. Larry pointed out the majority of us tend to spend the most time praying for the five things below. Rank the 5 prayers below from "most likely to pray for" (#5) to "least likely to pray for" (#1).

- Guidance
- Protection
- Deliverance
- Provision
- Success

2. Praying for certain things like patience can be intimidating in that God may actually introduce things into our life that cause us to have to learn to be patient. What are some things you may be hesitant to pray for because God may actually deliver?

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. This weekend Larry reminded us of the importance of prayer and pointed out how we often spend the most time praying for what we'd like to receive from God. While this is perfectly acceptable prayer, it can miss the opportunity to give something back to God. What do you see in the following verses that can help us move the focus from "get" to "give" in our prayers?

2 Samuel 22:2-4

Psalm 28:7

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Psalm 103:1-5

After reading the above verses, how do you think thanksgiving and praise help us become more spiritually mature?

2. This weekend we heard about the process of sanctification or "being set apart" and were encouraged to grow in our spiritual maturity. It can be hard to know how set apart to be and what that even looks like. How do the following verses help someone know what it looks like to be set apart in their daily life?

Galatians 5:13-14

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

Romans 14:19-23

As you look back on your life, can you think of any times you feel you've hit the mark in being set apart? Are there any times where you don't feel you were set apart enough or at all?

3. The life of Peter is a great example of God working in an ordinary man and changing him from the inside out. While Peter made plenty of mistakes, God used him in mighty ways despite his flaws. What life lessons can you see from what Peter went through that could help us move towards a change from the "inside out" today?

Matthew 14:22-31

Matthew 16:21-28

Acts 4:13-20

Of the three "life lessons" above, which do you relate to the most or are most challenging for you?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

1. What things would you like to incorporate into your prayer life to help you become more spiritually mature in the next few weeks?

2. What are one or two specific things your Growth Group could be praying for you?

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Prayer Requests:

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#### **2 Samuel 22:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> He said:

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

<sup>3</sup> my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield and the horn of my salvation.

He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—  
from violent people you save me.

<sup>4</sup> "I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,  
and have been saved from my enemies. *[NIV]*

#### **Psalm 28:7**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy,  
and with my song I praise him. *[NIV]*

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *[NIV]*

## Psalm 103:1-5

*Psalm 103 Of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. *[NIV]*

After reading the above verses, how do you think thanksgiving and praise help us become more spiritually mature?

2. This weekend we heard about the process of sanctification or “being set apart” and were encouraged to grow in our spiritual maturity. It can be hard to know how set apart to be and what that even looks like. How do the following verses help someone know what it looks like to be set apart in their daily life?

## Galatians 5:13-14

*Life by the Spirit*

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” *[NIV]*

## 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

*The Believer's Freedom*

<sup>23</sup> “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. <sup>24</sup> No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. *[NIV]*

## Romans 14:19-23

<sup>19</sup> Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. <sup>20</sup> Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. <sup>21</sup> It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. <sup>22</sup> So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. <sup>23</sup> But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. *[NIV]*

As you look back on your life, can you think of any times you feel you've hit the mark in being set apart? Are there any times where you don't feel you were set apart enough or at all?

3. The life of Peter is a great example of God working in an ordinary man and changing him from the inside out. While Peter made plenty of mistakes, God used him in mighty ways despite

his flaws. What life lessons can you see from what Peter went through that could help us move towards a change from the “inside out” today?

### Matthew 14:22-31

#### *Jesus Walks on the Water*

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup> “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

<sup>29</sup> “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” [NIV]

### Matthew 16:21-28

#### *Jesus Predicts His Death*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

<sup>28</sup> “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” [NIV]

### Acts 4:13-20

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup> “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” [NIV]

Of the three “life lessons” above, which do you relate to the most or are most challenging for you?

**TAKING IT HOME**

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