

## PHARAOH WAS AN IDIOT Don't Be A Pharaoh

### The Showdown Begins:

Exodus 7:1-24 vs. Exodus 5:2

### Three Things To Think About:

Exodus 7:1-24 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 Romans 1:21-32 2 Timothy 3:1-9 John 12:37-40

- ❶ What **g(G)od** am I showing people by how I **live**?
- ❷ Obedience is still **obedience** even if it ends in **defeat**.
- ❸ Given enough **time**, God will give us what we **really want**.  
**WARNING:** There is a point of **no return**.

### How To Know Which g(G)od I'm Following:

Matthew 7:21-29 Matthew 19:16-26 Mark 8:34-38

- ▶ Is my relationship with God based on:
  - ✓ **Humility**
  - ✓ **Sacrifice**
  - ✓ **Obedience**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 17, 2016

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## Welcome to the Winter Quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Winter Growth Group Quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...

*Be a miserable genius or...a happy moron?*

*Be fluent in all languages or...a master of every musical instrument?*

*Be stuck in a broken elevator or...stuck on a broken ski lift?*

2. As you look to 2016, what are one or two things you're looking forward to?

3. 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 that obeying what God calls us to do can actually end in defeat. Those aren't easy words to hear for any of us. How do the following verses help us keep moving forward even when it seems like doing what God calls us to do has a negative result?

#### **Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. *[NIV]*

#### **Romans 8:35, 38-39**

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*[NIV]*

### **Philippians 4:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *[NIV]*

2. How we live our life communicates to others who God is. It is a great reminder that none of us live in a vacuum and that our actions and attitudes do make a difference. Fortunately, as a follower of Jesus, God's spirit is at work in our lives to help make that happen. How does Galatians 5:22-23 describe what the spirit wants to do through us as individuals and a church to impact our world for Jesus?

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. *[NIV]*

Can you think of any examples in your own life of how God's Spirit helped you live out one of the "fruits of the spirit" listed in the Galatians passage?

### **LAUNCHING YOUR GROWTH GROUP QUARTER**

Every quarter a group meets, it's interesting to see how God works as you get to know each other better, apply God's Word, and encourage each other to grow. Before you go over the Covenant in your group, take a moment and write down your responses to the two questions below:

What are you looking forward to in your Growth Group this quarter?

Looking back at the last section in this weekend's note sheet called "How to Know which g(G)od I'm following", is there one of the three check points that catches your attention as more important than the others to focus on this quarter? If so, explain.

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## **THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS**

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives.

At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

## **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

## **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

## **SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.



### **Community Service Impact**

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through our service to the community. We have created many options for you as a Growth Group to go out and serve. Check out your options at <http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/>