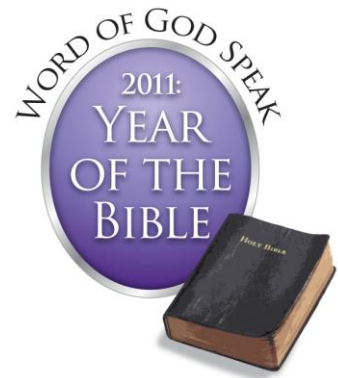


Week 6: Luke 6 - 13

Study Guide for the week of February 7 - 13, 2011



Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with Luke 6:37-42, one of Jesus' teachings on forgiveness. We all have tried to remove the "speck" from someone else's eye while ignoring the "log" in our own eye. Ask God to reveal those "logs" and "specks" in your life and make a list of them. Often what we criticize most in other people are those habits and sins we struggle with ourselves. Ask God to show you if this is a problem in your life. Make a list of all the times you remember Jesus showing compassion, not criticism, to a sinner. (Hint: for starters, check out Mark 2:40-45; 2:1-12; 2:15-17; 3:1-5; 5:22-43; 6:34; 8:1-9; 9:14-27; 10:13-16; 10:17-22). Ask God to teach you a spirit of compassion and not criticism. As you pray the Lord's Prayer this week, make forgiveness personal by praying "...And forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me ..."

Discussion starters *If you are leading a small group, may not have time for all of these questions. Pick the ones that will work best for your group.*

1. Ice Breaker Question: Luke 6:1-10 Describe how you typically spend your Sabbath Day. Is there anything you would like to change with how you spend your Sabbath Day?
2. *(This question will be asked each week at the start of the discussion on the Bible readings for the week.)* Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. Luke 6:12-16 Jesus chose a variety of people to be his disciples. Go around your group and name some of the unique characteristics of each person. As you do this, describe how each person's characteristics helps to build each other up.
4. Luke 6:41-42 What is this passage teaching? According to the end of verse 42, are we to never point out to our neighbor the sin in his/her life? What do you think it means to be able to "see clearly" when you are helping to remove the speck from your neighbor's eye?
5. Luke 6:46-49 Using the imagery of this parable, how would you describe your relationship with Christ right now: Established well on a deep solid foundation? Still digging down deep to find that solid foundation? Realizing you have had little or no foundation? Other?
6. Luke 8:1-3 Luke names some "behind-the-scenes" people. Do you work behind-the-scenes or know someone who does? How valuable are the behind-the-scenes people? Read Paul's answer in 1 Corinthians 12:22-26. When you see a behind-the-scenes person around, remember to offer your thanks!
7. Luke 9:23 What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus? How often are you to take up your cross? Try to put this teaching in real and specific everyday terms. What does it mean for you to take up your cross daily and follow Jesus?
8. Luke 10:1-20 It would appear that the mission of the 72 that Jesus sent out was successful (see verses 17-18). What is Jesus saying to them in verse 20? How does this speak into your own life and your desire to be successful?
9. Luke 12:1-2 What does this teach about trying to "hide" things from God? How are you at being radically honest with God?
10. Luke 12:1-34 This wonderfully blunt and descriptive passage goes back and forth between calls for radical obedience to God and clear proclamation of God's grace and blessing for us. Where do you see each in this passage? In your own walk with Jesus, how would describe this back and forth balance between being obedient to God and embracing His grace?

Bible verse to memorize: Luke 9:23

Caring Time

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is best to end the time together with a question like this:

- What was a high and a low for your this past week?

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that small groups is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time.