

Small Group Leaders Notes for the week of September 17, 2006

**1. What are God's kingdom values and how do they match up to your own values?**

God values people more than anything. A love relationship is the ultimate purpose of God for you and I. Our love relationship with God then blesses God. We see and believe in Him for who He really is and praise Him for what He has done. That bring us to worship Him with our lives and give it all to Him. Kingdom Values indicate that I begin to have God's priorities, bringing people into a relationship with Him.

Reflect upon and discuss the challenges of life priorities and focus. Living for God means that we give up our old life and strive for living a new life in Christ. We make His priorities our priorities and His values become our values. The world can no longer influence our lives and we live for God.

**2. What is the biggest struggle you have in trying to develop a Christ-like character?**

Each of us has character flaws. Some of us choose to ignore them or it may hurt to admit them but the best way to develop Christ-like character is to submit to the work of the Holy Spirit by praying about it and reading and meditating on the word which is sharper than any double edged sword and cuts right to the heart. Admitting and asking others to pray for you in specific ways can help develop Christ-like character. Several years ago, God reveled to me that although I liked people, I was not a merciful person. I led me to realize that I could walk or drive past hurting people on the streets and not think twice about it. I wasn't mean, but I was not full of mercy as He is full of mercy (Christ-like). After god reveled this to me I confessed, prayed and asked my small group to pray for me. God led a one-eighty in my heart and sent me off to begin a men's ministry at the homeless shelter downtown in San Jose. Since then, god has developed a deep love and passion for hurting people on the streets. Don't get me wrong, there are still many character flaws in my life to be conquered but I have learned that God is able if will submit.

**3. Read Philippians 2:13. How can this help us in our struggle to change?**

It is so important to understand that it is God who works in me. He will do it all and I never need to stress over living for Him, just submit and follow His leading for my life. This week try to memorize Philippians 2:13 by reading and repeating it as a promise from God and submitting to His work in you.

4. Which of the six ways for living to bless God is most needed in your life right now?

Each person has a different need to focus on. Time with God is the ultimate requirement. Time reading the word and going to God in prayer are areas of life that are easily forgotten. Having close relationship with Christian brothers and sisters will bring many blessings and give us opportunities to minister for others. Everyone needs help sometime and being connected to a group provides for that time when it comes. Finally, the most effective way to reach our community is in connection with others. Very few effective outreach opportunities I have experienced have been done alone. Each of us needs to find ways to touch the lives of people. This is putting our faith into action.

### **REMINDERS**

October 7th is "Day In The Park". Have your group select a 2-hour time slot to come together as a group and minister together at the park in this community outreach event. Sign up your team at the table on Sunday or email me at the church with a time slot you team can come to minister. We are in need of cases of bottled water donations to give out at the park.

Make sure every member in your group picks up a "5:1 Transformation Journal this week or next. We want to begin reading and journaling following Tim's message on September 24th. All of your group study materials for October can be found in that journal.

SATURDAY - 9/23 is the Leadership Day Retreat. RSVP BY 9/20. We would like all group leaders and spouses to attend. I need to know if you can make it so we can plan for food please let us know ASAP. It will be a Spirit filled awesome day at a Manresa beach house and it is free to you as leaders We will have coffee, juice, and morning refreshments by 10:00AM and begin promptly at 10:30AM. Break for lunch and some built-in time on the beach in the middle of the day. We will conclude about 5:00PM and those that want to hang out can join us for some praise and fellowship on the beach (around the fire if it is cold).

Group leader notes for each week are now posted on our website resources page.