

Small Group Leader Notes: Week of 10/15/06

During the week of 10/15, we will begin our 3rd week of 5:1 Transformation. The focus will be on reading, praying and meditating on the book of James. Now is the time for you, as the leader, to really encourage and challenge people to continue in the practice of daily journaling. Remind people that transformation takes place when the Holy Spirit works through us as we spend time in the word and prayer. People may be facing challenges to continuing to spend daily time with God. Scheduling conflicts along the way will try to derail our daily time with God but the Lord can help us in every time of need. We must commit to time with God and go to Him for strength and ask him to help us continue in our daily walk. As the group leader, recommit to your own daily time with the Lord. Remember that we must always serve as an overflow of God filling us up with His word. As you have been faithful, praise God for the strength and focus He has provided.

- As shepherds of God's flock, I encourage you to pray for each person in your small group by name this week.

Memory verse for this week: **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

Begin the night with this question, **“What's God doing in your life?”**

As people spend extended time in God's word and prayer, asking this question has often been the door to opening up people to explore what God is saying to them. Give people a chance to share how God is speaking into and doing things in their lives. Take time to offer prayers to the Lord as needed as people share.

***REMINDER:** You may not always get through all the stuff in the weekly small group lesson in your book but that is OK. Let the Lord guide your weekly discussion and allow people time to share. If all you get to is what God is saying in His word to people and praying about it, that is ok.

James 1:22-29 Doers of the Word

²²**Do not merely listen to the word**, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

Discussion Questions:

1. For the past few weeks we have been intently reading and listening to the word of God. What has God laid on your heart? **Allow people to share**

It is good to read the word, but God wants for us, transformed lives. God is laying things on the hearts of His people. **God is speaking through His word**, specifically to each of us and **He wants us to obey!** As brothers and sisters in Christ, we must be help one another hear what God is saying. We must be ready and willing to let God's word teach, rebuke, correct, and train us in righteousness.

2. James 1:22-29 says we are to be doers of the word. Based on what God has laid on your heart, what do you need to begin to do?

Again, let people think about how they are putting the Word of God into action. Help them think about how they personally are living out the word of God.

NOTE: Be careful not to become critical or allow criticism as we are all a work in progress and it is God who works in us to will and act according to His good purpose (Philippians 2:13) but we must not be disobedient to what he is calling us to do.

3. What is the difference between “just doing” and “being doers of the word?”

Let people discuss this question and explore the answer. I think the difference lies in where my motivation and prompting comes from. It also lies in my purpose. Why am I doing this?

4. Our memory verse this week is James 4:10. How do you interpret that verse?

I believe humbling ourselves before God means we recognize who He is and who we are. It means I acknowledge that no good thing comes from me but only from the Lord. It means putting Him at the center, at the front of your life.

Dale Sebring brought up a key point at our Elders discussion this week. God never opposed the sinners; the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the thieves... but God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

5. How will humbling yourself before God help you become doers of the word?

Transformation is dependent on humility before God! I will not desire to obey the word of God and do His will if I have pride in my heart. Instead, I will desire to be doers of my own desires.

TRUNK OR TREAT: We would like to have every small group to come together with decorated cars and candy on October 31 and if each group came up with a game for children to play it would be a great blessing. Discuss this with your group this week.

Coming up @ EVC: We are coming near the holiday season (Thanksgiving & Christmas) and we have decided on three church-wide ministries to support with more information to come on some of these.

1. October through mid-November, we are sponsoring Operation Christmas Child. Pick up a box and information at the church to give gifts to desperate children throughout the world.
2. In November, we are collecting socks and blankets for distribution on Thanksgiving Day during the holiday meal and worship time at the InnVision Homeless shelter.
3. In December, we are adopting the most needy families through Cadwallader & Norwood Creek schools to bless them for Christmas with food and gifts.

Each group however, is encouraged to get involved with any other ministries you feel led to do. For example, Chuck Ward's home group is looking into helping with the Giving Tree this year and Jerry Koch's home group is looking into helping with food distribution for people on the streets.

God Bless You
Dennis Hadley
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