

Small Group Leader Notes October 22, 2006

Trunk or Treat is coming. Please let me know how many cars your group expects to bring to the event on **October 31**, for planning purposes. We will have cards in the bulletin this week; if you could either complete the card or email me that will help in planning. If your group is planning a game, that would be nice to know as well. **THANKS!**

This Week's Memory Verse

1 John 4:4

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 1:5-10 Walking in the light

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to walk in the light?

I understand that to walk in the light means I meditate on His word and practice it in my life. Last week we studied about being doers of the word. I believe that walking in the light is being a doer of the word. To walk in the light means that I allow the Holy Spirit to speak into my life through the Word of God. He speaks truth to me and convicts me in areas I need to change. He convinces me of what pleases the Lord.

2. What is the result of walking in darkness? What is the result of claiming to be without sin?

Walking in darkness is living in sin. God will remove blessing from my life and His truth has no place in my heart. If I deny that I am a sinner, the truth is not me, and I have not accepted into my heart. God does not work in my

life to transform me into His likeness until I, in humility, admit I am a sinner and admit the sin in my life. When I do so, God who is faithful and just, forgives me and cleanses me allowing His transforming work to begin in my life.

3. **What might be in your life that is blocking your fellowship with Christ?** How can your small group pray for you?

By now, you have had opportunities to build strong relationships built on the Holy Word of God. Allow people to share openly as they are comfortable. Pray for individuals in their struggles against sin and lift them up with the promise of forgiveness from Jesus Christ, our Lord. I hope and pray this message will restore relationships with God. If an individual in your group has never confessed to the Lord and asked Jesus to forgive them, this may be the opportunity for them to admit that they are sinners in need of forgiveness. If that is the case, be prepared to lead them in a prayer admitting they are a sinner and asking for forgiveness, reassuring them of that promise fulfilled by the resurrected Jesus Christ on the cross. Help them ask Jesus Christ to come into their hearts as Lord of their life forever.

As the group leader/shepherd, pray for those people throughout this entire week. I will be praying that God will use you to lead others to claim forgiveness and eternal life in Christ Jesus.

4. Describe how the process of reading and meditating on the Word, journaling, praying, and meeting weekly with your small group, has helped you walk in the light?

Open discussion as time allows

5. Our memory verse this week is **1 John 4:4**. This verse lets us be certain that we can overcome the spiritual battle that is going on in our life because God is on our side and He is greater than Satan. How does that verse encourage you?

This is one of my life memory verses. I claim this always and it encourages me to know that nothing that Satan throws at me is greater than the Lord's power and mercy. I know He remains in me always and forever. Through Him I can overcome sin, fear, and become fruitful.

God Bless You,
Dennis Hadley
Pastor of Learning & Growth
Evergreen Valley Church
2750 Yerba Buena Road
San Jose, CA 95121
Church Phone: 274-7422
Cell 408-694-8019
www.evcsj.org