

SCRIPTURES FOR 3/11/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

1 Samuel 7:12

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.

Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 12:3 & 16

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

1 Peter 5:5

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Romans 7:15

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Psalms 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed



STEWARDSHIP AS LORDSHIP

My Value Assessment Checklist - Part 2

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

OPENING:

ICEBREAKER or GET YA THINKIN' QUESTION: _____

OPENING PRAYER NOTES: _____

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Jeff completed his call to self-examination, a time to evaluate where our treasure is.

Q: Have you noticed any improvement in the first six areas since last week?

DIG DEEPER:

Jeff is suggesting that we check our values. How do they compare to when we first believed? How much easier is it for us to live those values now?

Q: Why is this sort of assessment important? (*we are always in danger of apathy or autopilot*)
(*have someone read 1 Samuel 7:12*).

Q: Is Jeff asking us to erect an Ebenezer stone? What is the value of that?

Q: Austrian Psychiatrist Alfred Adler once said, "It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them." Do you agree? Why or why not?

APPLICATION:

CHECKLIST:

Item #7 – Is my prayer life improving? (*have someone read 1 John 5:14-15*)

Q: Do you have this kind of confidence? Does this mean we can pray for whatever we want and we'll get it? (*no, "according to His will"*)

Q: Jeff said we should be specific. Why is this important? (*indicates the confidence of answer; vagueness is like hedging*)

Item #8 – Have I maintained a genuine awe of God? (*have someone read Romans 1:16*)

Q: Can you remember how cool this was when you first learned it?

Q: How often do you think about how far you have come by His power?

Item #9 – Is my humility genuine? (*have someone read Romans 12:3 & 16, 1 Peter 5:5*)

Q: Jeff suggests we should avoid "believing our own press." What does he mean?

Q: Does humility mean we should have a low self-image? (*false humility*) What are some positive ways to display REAL humility? (*selfless service, do something outside our comfort zone, etc.*)

Item #10 – Is my "spiritual feeding" the right diet for me?

Q: Have you ever been surprised by what someone else considered worshipful or useful for spiritual growth?

Q: Have you ever followed someone else's "surefire method" for spiritual growth and found it useless?

Item #11 – Is obedience in small matters built into my reflexes? (*have someone read Romans 7:15*)

Q: If even Paul struggles with this, what hope do we have? (*have someone read Psalm 121:1-2*)

Item #12 – Do I have and exhibit the fruits of the Spirit? (*have someone read Galatians 5:22-23*)

Q: Which of these is the hardest for you naturally? Which have you seen most improved since becoming a Christian?

CONCLUSION

Jeff concluded by reminding us that stewardship requires us to value what God values.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____