

SCRIPTURES FOR 4/1/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Proverbs 3:5-10

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.
This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.
Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Psalm 139:23-24 (*The Message*)

Investigate my life, O God, find out everything
about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear
picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether
I've done anything wrong— then guide me on the
road to eternal life.

Deuteronomy 8:18

But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who
gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so
confirms his covenant, which he swore to your
forefathers, as it is today.

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for

tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has
enough trouble of its own.

Luke 12:29-31

And do not set your heart on what you will eat or
drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world
runs after all such things, and your Father knows
that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and
these things will be given to you as well.

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there
may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the
LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open
the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much
blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Deuteronomy 6:16, 17-18

Do not test the LORD your God as you did at
Massah.

Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your
God and the stipulations and decrees he has given
you. Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight,
so that it may go well with you and you may go in
and take over the good land that the LORD
promised on oath to your forefathers,

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

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:

Jeff suggested that now that we know God can be trusted and we looked at whether God could trust us, it's time to test our trust. (*have someone read Proverbs 3:5-10*)

Q: What does Solomon say we can expect if we trust God? (*straight paths, health, nourishment, material gain*)

Q: How much do you think is symbolic and how much is hyperbole to make a point?

APPLICATION:

Jeff suggests five steps to the TRUST test:

TAKE AN INVENTORY (*read Psalm 139:23-24 from The Message*) – Know God knows you.

Q: If we really accept that God knows us *completely*, we should be able to do a fearless personal inventory.

How do you feel about God knowing all your shortcomings? Are you prepared to see yourself as clearly as God does?

RECOGNIZE GOD AS THE SOURCE (*have someone read Deuteronomy 8:18*) – Know God knows how.

Q: What do you think is meant by “gives you the ability?”

Q: Can wealth can be built without God? What role does He play? Is this just about money?

UNDERSTAND GOD’S PRINCIPLES (*have someone read Matthew 6:34*) – Know God knows best.

Q: If God promises to provide, why do we worry?

Q: How can we reconcile Solomon’s recommendations for financial prudence with Jesus’ attitude about anxiety?

SURRENDER EVERYTHING (*have someone read Luke 12:29-31*) – Know God knows your need.

Q: Do you believe God would provide for you if you sold everything he has given you and gave the money to the poor?

Q: Is that sort of thing conditional (rich young ruler) or is it a general principle (Acts 2 community)?

TEST HIS PROMISES (*have someone read Malachi 3:10*) – Know God knows your future.

Q: How can we reconcile this passage and the injunction against testing God in Deuteronomy (“Do not test the LORD your God...”)?

Q: (*have someone read vv. 17-18*) How do the subsequent two verses impact, or maybe soften, that injunction? (*don’t test God, but be confident that, if you did, He would provide*)

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO’S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____