

Small Group Homework (LEADER'S GUIDE) – January 24th, 2016

Directions

- A. Pray for your group members and your time together before the meeting.
- B. Set up chairs and snacks for your group before they arrive. Greet each person as they come into your group.
- C. Take attendance. If you have any issues getting this done send Andrea Saffle an email at asaffle@riverlawn.org.

Main Point

Our God is a God who makes promises and fulfills them. A heart level question this week is: Can others tell I believe in God by the way I live?

Follow Up – *Send an email to your group with the following questions a few days after your meeting.*

1. During your time studying God's Word this week, have you come across any promises from God? What are they?
2. Have others seen your faith in action this week? In what ways?
3. (This would be a good week to send out prayer requests that you group made at the last meeting.)

Getting Started...

1. What was particularly helpful or insightful from the message this weekend?
2. *A time in my life when trusting in the promises of God was difficult...*

Into the Bible

3. Read 2 Peter 3:1-13. What are some other promises of God that come from scripture? And, if it is not in scripture can we call it a promise of God? ***Here some promises God made in scripture: 2 Peter 1:4, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 11:28-29, Isaiah 40:29-31, Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:37-39, Proverbs 1:33, John 14:27, Romans 10:9, and Romans 6:23.**

Do you struggle with God's timing? In what ways?

How would you advise someone who was struggling to be patient with God and His timing? ***Patience is a virtue and fruit of the Spirit. We learn patience through seasons of waiting on the Lord. There are great passages in the Psalms about waiting (Psalm 37:9, 123:2; Isaiah 40:31, 40:31). A good follow up to this question is: In a culture that wants instant gratification, how can we trust that waiting is a good thing?**

4. Read Deuteronomy 7:9, 2 Timothy 2:13 and 2 Thessalonians 3:3. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your life? ***Examples to possibly kickstart conversation: 1) I tithe each month even though my budget seems too small to make ends meet. But I've seen the Lord provide every time. 2) I prayed for a family member to receive Christ. It took a loooooong time but they recently asked me questions about my faith. Lot's of other stories like this.**

5. Read James 2:14-26. How would you explain the relationship between faith and works to a new believer? ***It's interesting to note that James' point is not that you need works in order to be saved. Rather, works are a natural byproduct of real faith. If I have real faith you will be able to see it by my works. I am saved by grace through faith and my works are strong proof of that faith.**

When has your faith led to action?

If there is no good works in your life, does that mean there is no faith? ***I put this question here to spark discussion and possibly disagreement. This is an "examining" question that helps us look at our own hearts. If we're honest and say we have faith, we must also be honest and examine our works.**

Sermon Application

6. Do a google search this week on this topic: "God's promises in the Bible". Using the list of references provided, read through the promises God has made and ask yourself if you fully trust Him, His plans and His timing. Spend some time in prayer asking God to give you confidence in Him as you study.
7. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:13 – "If we are faithless, he remains faithful –for he cannot deny himself."

Prayer Requests

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Upcoming Event

Men's Encounter

Sign up at wichitamensencounter.com

Make plans now to attend the upcoming Wichita Men's Encounter, February 26-28! It's more than a group of men talking about God; it's about establishing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Children's Ministry NEED

Contact Renee Schneider at rschneider@riverlawn.org

We are currently looking for a few people to help us with infants on Wednesday nights from 6:15-8:15pm. You would be helping our children's ministries and our small groups! *Background check is required.