

Small Group Homework

LEADER'S GUIDE

For the Week of March 22, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for Small Group Time)

MAIN POINT: The words we use and how we use them is deeply rooted in our hearts. Let's examine how we speak to get a picture of the current state of our hearts. If we recognize evil in our speech, we don't just need to watch what we say, we need a new heart.

GETTING STARTED

1. As you look back on this weekend's sermon, what stands out to you as particularly helpful, difficult, or insightful?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

2. Growing up, how did your family talk to one another?

Would you consider your family to be loud, quiet, or somewhere in between?

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

3. To gain a biblical understanding of the power our words have, read the following verses:

Proverbs 18:31 Matthew 12:36-37 Luke 6:45 Ephesians 4:29-32 James 1:26

What are three teachings from those verses that stand out to you?

1)

2)

3)

DIGGING DEEPER

4. Who are people in your life that you are sure to listen to when they speak? Why? ***The why is the biggest part of this question. Why do certain people hold more weight in our lives when it comes to direction and advice?**

5. Do you agree with this statement: "You always say what you mean."
Why do you think that? ***I understand that clarification is needed when we speak at times, but we always mean what we say. It could be helpful for a person to look at the intention of what they said to examine whether it was good or bad. There are definitely things we say that we don't intend to be hurtful, so clarity is needed.**

6. Why is a heart change necessary if we are going to go from being bad to good communicators? How does that change happen?

TAKING IT HOME

7. Practice the following this week:
 - Have I spoken or thought unkindly of anyone?
 - Am I justifying myself by caricaturing (in my mind) someone else?
 - Have I been impatient and irritable?
 - Have I been self-absorbed and indifferent and inattentive to people?

Repent like this: Consider the free grace of Jesus until there is:

- A. No coldness or unkindness (think of the sacrificial love of Christ for me)
- B. No impatience (think of His patience with me)
- C. No indifference (as I consider His love and death for me)

PRAYER REQUESTS

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