

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – September 25, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: Pursuing Christ-like Character
Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Citizens in the Kingdom of Heaven

Notes:

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Opening Questions: What is something that you devoted a lot of time, effort, energy and resources to acquiring in your life? Did you have a dream car, vacation or toy as a child? What was it?

Read: Matthew 7:7-8

Discuss: Pastor Brian talked about the progression of asking, seeking and knocking. One of the things that he said was that in the Greek language these verbs are written in the "present imperative" tense. This means that the verbs are best translated "keep asking," "keep seeking," "keep knocking." How does the idea that we are to keep asking, seeking and knocking clarify the meaning of this verse to you?

In the context of the Sermon on the Mount, these verses have everything to do with our spiritual growth. What are some of the things that you have prayed for as it relates to spiritual growth in your life?

Read: Galatians 5:16-26

Discuss: How does the Apostle Paul compare and contrast the life of the Spirit versus the life of the flesh?

How does Galatians 5:22-23 relate to the Sermon on the Mount?

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Read: 2 Peter 1:3-8

Discuss: What are some of the godly character traits that the Apostle Peter tells us to pursue?

Of the lists that Paul and Peter give in Galatians 5 and 2 Peter 1, which qualities do you most need to see God produce in your life today?

Read: Luke 11:5-10

Discuss: How does Jesus' mini-parable in verses Luke 11:5-8 help us to better understand the truth taught in verses 9-10?

How does this passage relate to Matthew 7:7-8?

Read: Matthew 7:9-11, Isaiah 49:15, Romans 8:26-27

Discuss: What do these verses reveal about the character of God?

Read: Matthew 7:12

Discuss: Why would Jesus include the Golden Rule at the end of this section of teaching?

Pastor Brian closed his message with the following application:

1. Write down a list of some of the spiritual qualities that you lack. Add these qualities to your daily prayer list. If you don't have a daily prayer list, start with asking God to help you become a person of prayer. Put the list in a spot that you will see it every day.
2. Ask a spouse, parent, brother, sister, close friend, pastor, someone to hold you accountable to praying for these things.
3. Ask God persistently to help you with these things.
4. Pray with confidence that God will answer your prayer
5. Live with authenticity, journaling how God has helped you grow in your walk with Him.

Pray: As you pray this week, ask God to produce a harvest of spiritual fruit in yourself and those in your group. Ask that God would be glorified in His church throughout the world. Ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to be evident in your life.