

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 16, 2008

Passage: Luke 17:1-10

Memory Passage: 2 Timothy 2:22

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:1-3a.** Who is Jesus talking to in this passage? What two warnings does Jesus give (v. 1)?
- (b) How is Jesus' statement about temptation different than what some Christians believe today? Do you believe that you are tempted to sin?
- (c) What does Jesus say that would be **worse** than being the person through whom temptation came? Is this a warning for only those who teach or for every believer? What are ways, besides teaching false doctrine, that a person can be a conduit for temptation?
- (d) Read 1Cor 8:1-13. How does this passage apply to our verses? In Luke, who is it that Jesus says can be caused to sin? Who is it that Paul says is susceptible to sin? What warning does Jesus give in verse 3a? How are you doing with this? Do you guard your speech, actions, and behaviors when you are around others, especially those who are less mature in the faith?
- (e) Think about the times when you are most tempted. When does temptation happen to you the most often? What do you do to prevent yourself from falling into temptation? Read Luke 22:40; 1Thess. 3:5; 1 Cor 10:13; 2Tim 2:22; James 4:7. How do these passages encourage us to battle temptation?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 17:1-3a. Talk about an area in your life that you feel that you are/have been tempted. Read Hebrews 4:15. Does Jesus understand what we go through when we are tempted? According to the passage in Luke, is it important for us to be aware of what we say and do around others? Why? Pray together that God would keep you from temptation and that he would make you aware of what you say and do so that you might not be a stumbling block to others.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:3b-4.** How are these verses linked to the ones above? What is our response if we see a brother sinning?
- (b) Read Galatians 6:1-5. In what attitude does Paul instruct us that a rebuke should be done? Why should we be careful about rebuking our brothers?
- (c) What are we to do if our brother repents? Read 2Cor. 7:8-13. What does it mean to have true repentance vs. worldly grief? What does true repentance look like? Does Jesus make this distinction here? Why not? Is having only worldly grief a sin in need of rebuke?
- (d) Why do we forgive others with such extravagance (Matt 6:14-15)? Are you holding back from forgiving someone? Are you holding back a needed rebuke?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:3b-4 and Gal. 6:1-5. Who is it that should correct a brother in sin? How should he correct a brother? What is the motive behind correcting a brother? Why are we able to forgive others even though they repeatedly sin (Matt 6:14-15)? Is there anyone that you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from? Thank God for sending Jesus to forgive us from our repeated sins and pray for someone who has sinned against you.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:5-6.** What are the apostles responding to in verse 5? Why do you think that they needed more faith?
- (b) Read Mark 11:22-25. How is this passage similar to Luke 17:3-6? What does this appeal for faith in relation to forgiveness tell us about how difficult it is to forgive?
- (c) Have you ever met someone who was really forgiving? What were they like? What was their faith like?
- (d) What was Jesus' response? Did the disciples need more faith? Or did they need a different kind of faith?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:5-6. Why do the disciples think they need more faith? What does the parable that Jesus tells communicate to us? Faith is placing your trust in someone or something. What is the object of true faith? Pray that the Lord would renew your faith in Him and ask Him to show you how you might walk in that faith today.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:7-10.** What is the answer to the question in verse 7? Why do you think that a master would not do this?

- (b) In verse 8, what is the answer to this question? Is what the master asks unreasonable or out of line? What would be the expectation of the servant?
- (c) Does the master thank the servant for doing his duty? At work, do you get thanked for doing what you are expected to do? What is it that Jesus is pointing out in verse 10? Should we expect some great reward for doing what we have been commanded?
- (d) The Pharisees thought that if they lived a righteous life God owed them good things. In contrast, what is the point that Jesus is making? How does this serve as a warning to the disciples? To us? How does this address what our true motivation is supposed to be in serving Christ?
- (e) *Family*: Read Luke 17:7-10. What does the servant get for obeying his master? Why does the servant not get any special praise? Do you think that when you obey God that you deserve to receive good things? Why is it that we get any sort of special blessings from God (Eph. 1:3-6; 1Pet 1:3)? Thank God for all the blessings that he has given to you in his mercy and grace.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 12:35-37**. Who does this passage call us to be like? What is Jesus calling us to do?
- (b) What would normally happen when a master returned home? What is the twist here in the parable?
- (c) To what event does this parable allude (Rev. 19:7)?
- (d) In light of Luke 17:7-10, how does Luke 12:35-37 amplify the graciousness of God?
- (e) *Family*: Read Luke 12:35-37. How has God been gracious to your family this year? What are you placing your hope and anticipation in this holiday season, things or the coming of our Lord? Pray that amid the holiday season that the anticipation for things does not outweigh your anticipation for the Lord.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 17:1-10. What has been the one thing that has stuck out to you this week? Are you loose with your actions or words? Are you becoming a stumbling block for someone else? Have you unforgiveness in your heart toward someone? Maybe your faith is placed in something other than Christ. Do you expect God to bless you for all that you have done for him? Whatever question it might be, spend some time confessing what the Lord has placed upon your heart and go to Him realizing your great need of Him.

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Forgiveness in the Kingdom
"if your brother sins against you...forgive him"