

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010

Passage: Col. 4:5-6

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 3:15-16a

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) This week we are going to do something a little different! I will preach on Luke 2:8-14 on Sunday, but our green sheet this week will look back to Colossians 4:5-6. So go back and get that green sheet from your bible (or the trash!) and spend today re-reading your answers, especially in light of what God might have said to you during the sermon yesterday. If you did not complete the green sheet because you knew that we were not having Sunday school yesterday, then take this week to complete it day-by-day as usual (you can find it on our website if you need to print one off).

(b) I will only be asking a few questions this week, they will all be very application-oriented, and I will be thinking about our small group discussions when I write them. Also, I am not writing family devotion questions for this week (I don't think I can be creative enough to write two sets of family questions on only 2 verses!).

(c) After you look over your responses from last week, look back at the list of names you wrote on Day 2, Question c. Spend some time in prayer right now asking God to open doors to speak to any or all of these people during the coming week. Ask Him for strength to speak boldly and graciously. Ask Him to overcome any fear you might have. Write down anything that comes to mind about any of the people on this list with regard to how you might start these conversations or be ready for their responses.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Much of Christianity sees missions as something that happens with other people in other lands. But the reality is that if you are a believer, you are on mission right where God has planted you. He may move you to a different garden at some time in the future, but your mission is to bloom with the gospel for the glory of Christ. Now. In your current relationships. This means that you must understand & apply the gospel to your own life as well as teach it to and live it in front of others. What keeps you from "making the most of your time" with those outside the church? Is there fear involved? Worry? Apathy? Disdain? Arrogance?

(b) What are some Scripture passages that you can memorize to help you overcome these emotions? How can you seek the help of other believers in working to overcome these attitudes? How can you be of help to others in their struggle in this area?

(c) Consider for a moment what our church and community would be like if every member of our church lived their life on mission for Christ at every moment, always seeking ways to graciously speak in a salty manner to everyone around them, and always looking for ways to enter into discussions about the hope that lies within them. What would our church look like? What would our ministry look like? How many people might become a part of our church? What kind of building might we need? How many people would you be discipling? How many people might God bring from darkness into light?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) I made the point in the sermon that culture was not inherently bad, and that we should be engaged with our culture as Spirit-empowered believers with the gospel on our lips and the glory of God as our motive. Do you agree with me? Do you think our role is to be separated from our culture? Can we live a holy life, consecrated unto the Lord and still fully engage our culture for the gospel?

(b) As you consider what it means to move closer to your culture with engagement in mind, what gives you pause? What scares you a little (or a lot)? What questions do you have?

(c) Consider for a moment all the activities in which you are involved each week. Especially those that are passions or hobbies or talents. How can you make sure that your pursuit of these activities is not more of a priority than Christ? How will reminding yourself that your priority is Christ, not the activity, help you participate in these activities with a kingdom focus?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Even though the culture is not inherently bad, are there dangers for us in the culture? How do we recognize them? How do we engage the culture around us with the gospel without being unwise with these dangers? How do we avoid making these dangers our excuse for not engaging our culture? (To jog your memory, I gave you a list in the sermon of questions to ask before engaging your culture.)

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) We have been thinking so far about our individual work as Christians on mission. Now let's think for a moment about our church's work as a church on mission. What are some of the questions we should ask about Cabot and the surrounding area

before we begin? What are some questions we should ask about the body at BCC before we begin? (To help facilitate your thought, one set of questions might be: What are the needs in Cabot?/What are the giftings & passions in BCC?)

(b) Read Ephesians 3:20-21. Give some creative thought to how we as a church might engage our community. Be specific, thinking of specific needs that might need to be met and how we might meet them, specific opportunities for ministry & outreach in which we are not currently participating, new opportunities that we might create specifically to engage our culture, etc.

(c) Be ready to share some of your ideas with your group on Sunday morning!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) How did God answer the prayer you prayed on Day 1, Question (c)? Be prepared to give a testimony concerning how God opened doors for you this week to speak to non-believers about the mystery of Christ.

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A Missional Life (Part II)