

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 1, 2010

Passage: Colossians 2:1-5

Memory Passage: Review Week: Review the verses we have memorized so far in Paul's letter to the Colossians.

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

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 2:1-5.** On whose behalf does Paul struggle? What is significant about them according to v. 1?
- (b) What do you think Paul means when he says he has “a great struggle” on behalf of these people? Is it physical? Emotional? Spiritual? How can one struggle greatly in this way on behalf of people that have never been met?
- (c) Have you ever struggled for someone else like this? What about someone you have never met? What does this look like to struggle greatly on behalf of someone else?
- (d) *Family:* Ask everyone to close their eyes and listen closely as you begin to tell a story about someone (give them a name and make the story sound real) who was walking down the street in Little Rock, minding his/her own business, and comes across a group of people getting ready to attack a single person. Tell a good story, with lots of detail to engage their minds and keep their interest! At the point that your character comes upon this unavoidable attack, stop and say, “What would you do if you were this person?” Let the discussion ramble concerning the “right” thing to do, there are more of them than of me, etc. (remember to teach during this time about these issues), turn their thoughts to what would happen if their decision was to intervene in this struggle, what it would be like to engage in someone else's struggle, and what they would hope to accomplish by this struggle. Then read Colossians 2:1-5 and apply these lessons to Paul's struggling on behalf of people he had never met, and what he hoped to accomplish through his struggle.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Colossians 2:1-5 & Eph. 3:17-19.** In our culture we usually associate the heart with the emotions, especially love, but in Scripture it usually refers to the center of our will, thought & personality as well as our emotions. Why do you think Paul thought the Colossians might need encouraging in their hearts?
- (b) How are the Colossians' (and all believers') hearts “knitted together?” Why is this foundational to their encouragement?
- (c) Paul also struggles on behalf of the Colossians that in their encouragement they would be “attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding.” According to the 3 passages you read today, what does this phrase mean? What is the result Paul desires to see (Col. 1:2, 4)?
- (d) Why is the idea of community (“knit together”) important in attaining this encouragement & wealth of knowledge that results in a true knowledge of Christ? In what ways are you “plugged in” to community at BCC? Are you being encouraged & growing in the wealth of knowledge of Christ as a result? If so, how? If not, why not?
- (e) *Family:* **Read Col. 2:1-2.** Be prepared with a large ball of yarn. Have your family stand in a circle that is large enough to toss the ball of yarn back and forth. Begin by holding the end of the ball of yarn and tossing the ball of yarn to someone as you say aloud why you love them or are thankful for them. That person then repeats by holding on to the yarn with one hand and throwing the ball to someone else. After throwing the ball several times you can stop saying why you are thankful for the person, but keep tossing the ball to someone else until you make a strong web of yarn. (Remember that each time a person throws the ball they must hold on to the yarn in their other hand so a web is formed.) After the web is formed, have everyone continue to hold on to their point on the web as you teach about our hearts being knit together. Talk about the strength of the web, the interconnectedness of the web, the importance of every point on the web, etc.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) To emphasize the importance of community in body life, we will spend the next several days looking at some of the “one anothers” of Scripture, those passages that teach us how we are to live with “one another” in community. Our list will not be exhaustive, but we will try to cover most of the categories that Scripture covers.

For each passage given on the next three days, answer the following questions: (1) What did you learn about how to treat others in community? (2) In what ways have you experienced this “one another” from others? (3) In what ways have you practiced this “one another” toward others? (4) List several ways in which you can be more active in practicing this “one another” toward others.

- (b) *Family:* As you read through the passages for each day, make a list of the “one anothers” as well as a list of practical ways in which your family can contribute to body life in the church by practicing them. You may also wish to have each person who can write make their own list of personal ways that they will be more active in practicing the “one anothers” of

Scripture. You will probably have to teach the meanings of several words, as well as give some encouragement (which is practicing one of the “one anothers!”) that helps everyone understand how to apply each one.

(c) “One anothers” for today: John 13:34; Rom. 12:10; 13:8; Eph. 4:2; Hebrews 10:24

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) “One anothers” for today: Rom. 14:13; Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:25; James 4:11; 5:9; 1 Thess. 5:15.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) “One anothers” for today: Rom. 15:7, 14; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:11

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) “One anothers” for today: 1 Cor. 12:25; Gal. 5:13; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 4:9; 5:5;

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A Stable Faith