

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Eternal Trust Part 4
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group Rally - Mark your calendar! The Small Group Ministry is having an event for all small groups (leaders and attendees) and those interested in being part of the ministry. Details: Friday, March 9, 7 PM in the Rock Sanctuary. Please R.S.V.P by Friday, March 2 to andy@therocksandiego.org or 858.268.1366 x2012. More information to come!

For all other Rock events, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MEMORY VERSE

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS - ETERNAL OPPORTUNITY

Okay, we've been at this for four weeks now with pretty much the same message: *you've been given spiritual resources and God expects you to use them in His church.* It's really as simple as that. But if this is actually going to happen in your life you will have to experience an *internal* change.

The change I'm talking about is orienting yourself toward *downward mobility*, and that goes against just about everything in our world. What God is asking all of us to do is take a step downward by serving others. Essentially, He is saying, "Don't be self-promoting. Come do this hard thing. Give your time, money and resources to help me reach this entire world."

So this week we're going to ask you one simple question (a few different ways): How's that going for you? Have you really become a servant yet? Have you draped a serving towel over your arm and started giving to others?

Getting Started - The "Dashboard"

Many companies these days have an organizational tool called a *Dashboard* which helps them know how things are going in certain categories (e.g. profit and loss, growth, market share, etc.). In our cars, dashboards have gauges that allow us to know what's happening somewhere else in our car because while we drive, we can't be in the engine compartment physically

checking the oil pressure and water temperature. Let's apply this metaphor to our spiritual lives for a few minutes.

1. What parts of your life would you check to know if you were being a servant and using your spiritual gifts? What parts of your life would we hook up the gauges to? What would it look like if you were a servant?
 - a. Exercise: Work this dashboard/gauge metaphor a bit. As a group, come up with 4 to 6 aspects of someone's life that we could look at to determine if they are servants. (For example, you might want to hook up a gauge to someone's Day-Timer to see if any of their time is spent in a ministry or helping others.)

2. When was a time that you really served someone else? How did that make you feel?

Digging Deeper

"You are most like Jesus when you serve others." I don't know who wrote that but I believe it. In fact, I've devoted my life to that because I think that's what Jesus calls us to do. How about you? Do you think Jesus calls us to serve?

Let's take a few minutes and look at what Jesus is all about. Read Philippians 2:3-8 out loud, twice. Read it slowly and maybe even picture in your mind Jesus doing the things you read about. After you've read it in your translation, consider reading it out loud in The Message too, just to let it sink in deeper (I've included that version at the end of the lesson).

3. For the sake of our lesson, let's assume that each of Jesus' traits is a gauge, or example, for us to follow. As you look closer at the Philippians 2 passage, what are the servant traits you see?

4. What would it look like in our current day if someone lived the values and priorities Jesus revealed in the passage? What kinds of behaviors would you see? How would someone act?
 - a. Take some time and make a list for each of the "Jesus gauges" you listed above. If you have a white board you might want to pull it out and write down what you come up with as a group.

Bringing it Home

Being a servant the way Jesus was a servant can seem daunting and unreachable. Truth be told, we will never be all that Jesus was while He was here on earth. But there is nothing keeping us from **taking steps** toward being like Him. Perfection? Certainly not. Progress? Absolutely.

I encourage you to take steps this week toward becoming like the servant Jesus. In fact, let's finish this week's lesson thinking about how to do that.

5. Let's assume that God is shining a spotlight on one of these gauges for you, *for you alone*. He's saying, "I know there are a lot of ways you can grow but I just want you to focus on this one thing."

a. As a group, take 30 seconds of silence and, individually, ask God which of the "Jesus traits" He most wants to build into your life. What did you come up with? What do you think God is asking you to work on and develop?

6. What will you do now? What will be some of your next steps? How can you live and behave differently to become more like a servant? How will you become more like Jesus by using your gifts in the church?

7. Let me suggest one last thing. One way to cement this into your life, and your group life, is to work on it outside the group and there are a bunch of things you can do. For example...

a. You could do a service project together as a kick-off for your decision to become better servants. Is there a service project you want to explore and commit to as a group? If so, what will you do next? What are the specifics (times, dates, assignments, etc.)?

b. You could also memorize some verses on serving, helping you to internalize some of what you've been hearing and studying the last four weeks. Here are some suggested verses:

- ♦ 1 Peter 4:8-10
- ♦ Matthew 20:25-28
- ♦ Ephesians 4:15-16
- ♦ Galatians 6:9-10
- ♦ Do any of you want to pick this as a next step? Which verses will you memorize this week?

Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion. **Philippians 2:3-8**
(The Message)