

Growth Cell Homework

For the Week of May 25-31, 2008

Jesus said: *“Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires”* (Matthew 5:10 TEV)

Reflection Question: What is your reaction to this beatitude? How can a persecuted person be happy?

Matthew 5:13-14

1. What two objects does Jesus use to describe what we are to be as His followers? _____
Verse: _____
2. What happens to salt when it loses its saltiness? _____
Verse: _____
3. What do people see as we let our light shine and what is their response? _____
Verse: _____

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

4. Why does God comfort us in our troubles? _____
Verse: _____
5. What does Paul say is the reason for why he went through such intense hardships in the province of Asia? _____
Verse: _____
6. True or False: Paul expects God to continue to deliver him as long as the Corinthians pray.
_____ Verse: _____

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7. Why was Paul given a thorn in the flesh to torment him? _____
Verse: _____
8. What was God's response to Paul pleading? _____
Verse: _____

To make the Sharing Choice, I need to...

1. Pray about my choice:

I will ask God to lead me to someone with whom I can share my story of the victories He has given me over my hurts, habits or hang-ups, or help in their discomfort as they don't know where to go or how to stop the pain. I will ask Him to let me do this with gentleness and respect. And, I will thank Him for allowing me to serve Him in this way.

2. Write about my choice:

Peter tells us: *Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect.*

(1 Peter 3:15-16 TEV) If I am to share my story, I need to prepare. I can get started by:

- Making a brief list of all the experiences that have significantly impacted my life—both positive and negative.
- Next, writing out what I learned from each experience and how God helped me through the tough times.
- Finally, by putting my story in a brief 3-5 minute format to share with others.

Jesus tells me that as I have received freely from Him, I need to freely give. As I reflect on His words and the following questions, I need to make some notes to myself on what my action plan will be.

- Who will I share my story with? When? Where?
- If I knew that I couldn't fail, what would I like to do most for God in helping others?
- Do I need to make any changes in where I am serving others? Am I still passionate about serving in this (these) area(s)?
- What opportunities to serve others will I explore in the next 1-2 weeks?

3. Share about my choice:

I can share my story with my growth cell to get their feedback before I share it with others. Also, I can share with them where I am planning to serve.

Maintaining an ABCDE Balance

Growth Cells embody five ABCDE characteristics:

- A- **Accountability:** Participants help each other apply Biblical truths to each others' lives.
- B- **Belonging:** Participants deepen friendships with each other as a part of studying together.
- C- **Care:** Participants care for each others' needs under the direction of the growth cell leader.
- D- **Discipleship:** Participants learn more about the Bible and apply it to their lives.
- E- **Evangelism:** Participants reach out to new people.

This Week:

This week focus on **Belonging** by doing the following:

- This is the last of the bulletin inserts for this program year. We will resume with the bulletin inserts in the fall, starting with Sunday, September 7, 2008. Has your group decided how they will stay connected over the summer? Some groups are continuing right on as usual, and choosing from a variety of different curriculums. Others are meeting for social times on an every other week basis. Some other groups are using other formats. If your group has not decided yet, please take some time before the close of this week's session to decide.

Strategic Prayer Concerns:

- Health of your growth cell (and other growth cells)
- Those you could invite into your growth cell
- Any others from your group:

Have a Question?

The Christian Church at Cogan Station
5904 Lycoming Creek Road, Cogan Station, PA 17728
570.998.2989

Missed the sermon or forgot your Bible study?
Interested in more resources? Check out our webpage:
www.coganstationchurch.org

What Do You Think?

Reflections on This Week's Study in the Word

As we work on Principle Eight on the Road to R.E.C.O.V.E.R.Y., we discover the joy of helping other people, particularly those who are working through the same eight principles we have gone through. Our job is not to pick them up and carry them through the principles, but to stand alongside of them as they move along their journey – sharing our story at times, helping them think through their next step at other times.

Occasionally, we will need to help them slow down when they are moving through the principles too quickly. Or, we may need to speed them up because they have gotten “stuck” at some point in their recovery journey. We have seen individuals get “stuck” in one or more of the following ways:

1. They have not completely worked the previous principle. They are moving too fast and need to slow down and give God time to work.
2. They have not completely surrendered their life and will to the Lord Jesus Christ. They are still trying to control certain areas of their lives.
3. They have not accepted Jesus' work on the cross for their forgiveness. They may have forgiven others, but they think their sin is too big to be forgiven.
4. They really have not forgiven others who have harmed them. They are still holding onto the pain of past harm and abuse. Until they are able to release it and forgive it, they will still be held a prisoner.
5. They are afraid of the risk in making the necessary change.
6. They are not willing to “own” their responsibility for their past behavior in a broken relationship, a damaged friendship, etc.
7. They have not developed an effective support team. They do not have a sponsor or accountability partner and are not committed fully to their growth cell.

If you are stuck in a step prior to principle eight, check these seven areas out to see where you need to work. Get unstuck before helping others.

Daily Reading Plan

There is no reading plan for this week. This is the last bulletin insert for growth cells to use until next fall. We hope you have enjoyed this year's journey in growing in Christ as you have been involved in one of our growth cells. We do encourage you to maintain a regular quiet time over the summer even though we will not be placing a reading plan in the bulletin. This is your chance to explore one or more books of the Bible which you have not read in some time or have wanted to get back to. May each quiet time draw you closer in your walk with our Lord.

Evaluation

As we work over the summer on getting ready for the fall, Dave and Larry would like feedback on the materials that were used in growth cells this past year. Please send your feedback by e-mail to Larry at LandSFreed@aol.com; or by mailing it to the church; or by calling Larry or Dave (998-2989).

Potential areas for feedback:

1. Reading Plan: Did you use it? If so, what was helpful? What was not? If you didn't use it, why not? What changes would you make? What would you leave the same?
2. Bulletin Insert: We have two main panels of questions on the inside (first-objective questions; second-deeper discussion questions and application questions). What do you like about the format? What don't you like? What would you change and what would you keep the same?
3. This past year, we covered three main areas: who we are and what we believe at CCCS; a study in the Gospel of Luke; and the Road to R.E.C.O.V.E.R.Y. If your group studied these, what was the group's reaction? What was helpful? What was not? What would you change? What would you keep the same? What content areas would you like us to address in the future?

Series: The Road to Recovery

May 25, 2008

Larry Freed

The Sharing Choice – Recycling Pain

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 TNIV

A. Why Did God Allow My Pain?

1. He's given me a _____.
2. To get my _____.
3. To teach me to _____.
4. To give me a _____.

B. How Can I Use My Pain to Help Others?

Principle Eight on the Road to R.E.C.O.V.E.R.Y.:
Y_____ myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my _____ and by my _____.

1. Y_____ myself to _____.
2. E_____ is what is important.
3. S_____ others as Jesus Christ did.

Where will I passionately serve in the coming year?

With whom and where will I share my story? _____

To explore this topic more this week, consider joining one of the CCCS Growth Cells. Contact Dave Hall or the church office at 998-2989.