

Life Group Homework

For the week of March 11, 2018

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) Who did you encourage this week, or how did you personally find encouragement this week?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

We are going to circle back around to a passage we studied in the first week of this series to help us recognize how important PRAYER is as our first step.

Nehemiah 2:1-5(NLT)

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.

- 4) Why do you think Nehemiah prayed before he answered the king?
- 5) Was Nehemiah concerned only about his family? Who else was he concerned about?
- 6) Who are your people, and where is your community?
- 7) Do you have a method or system you use to remember to pray for important people in your life, and if so, what is it?

This week Pastor Craig challenged us to be intentional about seeing beyond our immediate family and ourselves. He encouraged us to pray for our community and neighbors. We will be unpacking some practical ways to do that in the next section.

disciples before He ascended into heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20(NLT)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in¹² the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

- 8) What is a disciple?
- 9) How would someone go about making a disciple?

1Peter 3:15-16(NLT)

¹⁵Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

- 10) Many times when Christians discuss sharing their faith, they say they share it through their lifestyle. While this is crucial, it is not the only thing we are taught to do. What do these verses say we should do?
- 11) Why is your story so important?

Your story is yours; it's irrefutable. People can argue theology and history, but your experience with Jesus matters.

James 5:16b(NLT)

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

- 12) What is "earnest prayer", and how should we apply this to our neighbors?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week sit down and prayerfully work through the following questions.

- Who were you with when you gave your life to Jesus?
- When, or about when, was it?
- What did you want Jesus to do for you?
- What was your life like before Jesus, and what difference has Jesus made for you?

Not everyone can remember these details for various reasons, however, Jesus remembers, so ask Him to remind you. It may be that you were young when you

gave your heart to Christ and that is awesome. What decisions has Jesus saved you from?

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 1 Peter 3:15-16 with your children. Then, answer the following questions as a family:

13) What does it mean to be a disciple?

If your children have not yet asked Jesus into their hearts to be their Lord and Savior, now is a good time to do so. Explain to them that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and that even though we try to do our best, we all make mistakes (Romans 3:23). When we do things that are wrong, those wrong choices separate us from God (Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 6:23). But, God loves us so much that He didn't want to be without us. So, He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:8). All we have to do is confess our sins, ask God to forgive us and ask Jesus into our hearts to be the Lord and Savior of our lives (Romans 10: 9-10, 13). Guide them through the prayer if they are ready, and then celebrate!

14) How do we make disciples?

15) How did you come to know Jesus?

16) What was your life like before you knew Jesus? (Parents: this is an opportunity for you to share your faith with your children.)

17) What is your life like now?



Nehemiah's story speaks to our generation:

God wants us to OPEN our eyes WIDER!

God has a vision within a vision.

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:11-14

How do we join God to open our eyes wider?

Simple answer - Pray (Engage God for your neighbor)

James 5:16b

James 4:12

Matthew 5:43-4

"Love them" {Agape - A choice of the WILL, not about feeling warm and fuzzy for them.}

Commitment = Pray for your neighbors at least once a week...you decide when, amount of time.

- Hearts to be open to hear the whispers of God
- Opportunities to share my story of how I have experienced God
- Invite them to your Life Group!
- Invite them to Easter!