

Connecting Group Study Guide

Knowing, Growing, Going

Week of April 17-23, 2016

Follow-up

1. Start by sharing with each other about your previous week.
2. In what ways did your group apply the *Going* piece from last week?
3. How can you continue to make humility a regular practice for you and your group?

Knowing God

Read Psalm 1:1-6.

In his commentary on the Psalms, Gerald H. Wilson shares the following about the first psalm: "...the psalm that we know as Psalm 1 was understood to be an introduction to the *whole Psalter* rather than just another psalm. It is likely that the final editors of the Psalter chose Psalm 1 as the gateway to the psalms because it encourages the readers/hearers to consider the songs that follow to have the effect of divine guidance or *torah*. This psalm also exhorts the readers both to read the psalms and to meditate deeply on the message God is communicating through them. It strongly affirms how one responds to the revelation of God unleashed by reading the psalms determines one's ultimate destiny" (*Psalms Volume 1*: NIVAC, Zondervan, 2002).

1. According to this psalm's placement and the above background information, what insights about God (his character, behavior, etc.) are revealed within this week's Scripture passage?
2. In light of this week's sermon, how does Psalm 1 address the topic of God's truth and His Word?

Growing in Christ-likeness

Read Mark 4:1-20.

1. What parallels can you draw between Psalm 1 and Jesus' teaching in Mark 4:1-20?
2. According to both Psalm 1 and Mark 4:1-20 what are some reasons people fail to grow in maturity and Christ-likeness?
3. What do you think may be involved in being "receptive soil"?

Going to Our Neighbors and the World

1. The Word of God plays an important role in the life of the believer. In what ways do you personally practice meditating and studying the Word of God? What effect has that had upon your life?
2. Action Step #1: If you currently do not practice reading and studying the Scriptures daily, commit to making time daily throughout this week and keep a journal about your time with the Lord.
3. Action Step #2: As a Christ-follower we are called to "sow the seed" for the sake of others. This week make it a point to verbally share with someone the impact Christ and his word has made upon your life.

Close in prayer together.