Connecting Group Study Guide

Knowing, Growing, Going

Week of August 21 - 27, 2016

Follow-up
1. Start by checking in with each other about your previous week.

Occasionally Pastor Chris will remind us that *time* is a non-renewable resource that we have been given. We can't bank it. We can't go to the store and purchase more of it when we feel that we need it. When it is gone, it's really gone. Dr. Henry Cloud, who is famous for his books on boundaries, writes, "Your time is your life. Period. How you spend it ends up being what your life is" (*The One-Life Solution*, pg. 66). Does this statement stir anything in you? Do you agree with Henry Cloud? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

Knowing
According to Jesus' parable the master gives his servants a particular resource (gold/money). For our discussion, let's imagine the resource is *time*.
1. What are the indicators in this passage that the master wants the servants to put their resources to good use? (Matt. 25:14-15, 19)
2. Observe the responses of the three servants. Discuss what you see taking place in their actions, etc.

Growing
1. What is different about the third servant's response to the master (Matt. 25:24-25)?
2. How does our attitude and view of God affect how we use our time/resources?

Going
Jesus emphasizes using our God-given resources (e.g., time) in a manner that we will have something to show for it (Matt. 25:27).
1. Observe verse 29. Can your group draw any principles from Jesus' words here?
2. Think about it—In these study guides we have occasionally talked about "time-killers". What are the time-killers in your life that are stripping you of this non-renewable resource?
3. Think about it—What do you value? Are there any (dis)connections between your values and how/where you are spending your time?

Close in Prayer:
Break up into groups of two and pray specifically for one another—that God would reveal the time-killers in our lives in order that we may be better stewards of this precious resource.