February 5th, 2017 Sermon Notes

Growth Group Discussion

Winter

Week 3

We use these times to *grow spiritually and to deepen our* relationships.

A Holy Discontent

Working Definition: "When you feel called to passionately undertake something for God or his people because it is so broken and troubles you greatly."

Have you identified something that you feel called to engage in and make a difference for God?

Reflection and Discussion

- 1. Without revealing names, share with the group the kinds of 'opposers' you are facing right now? Gossipers? Bullies? Selfishly ambitious co-workers? Ignorant family members? Horrible Growth Group people? (joking, joking...)
- 2. Read Nehemiah 4:4-5.

When you face opposition, how quickly, and how often are you talking to God about it?

Do you feel that praying will actually make a difference? If so, how?

3. Read Exodus 23:4-5. It's easy to hate your those who oppose. Any worldly person can do that. But how often do you actually pray FOR your enemies? But for them to get aligned with God and His perspective. For you to have a heart to still be considerate.

How much are you posting on social media your gripes compared to offering them up to God? How much are you praying for leadership around you and in the world to tap into God's purposes?

4. Read Nehemiah 4:1-3. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem hurled all kinds of insults and schemes Nehemiah's way. He did a fantastic job of staying focused and channeling his energies for God into the right place, but it certainly wasn't easy.

What kinds of "flaming arrows" hurt you the most? Insults? Ridicule? Betrayal? Schemes behind your back? Gossip? Lying? Intimidation?

How great are you at keeping your energy focused on the good that you can do? Where do you find yourself getting thrown off balance the most? Is there anything you can do to improve in that area?

Are you willing are you to proactively seek out advice and talk to someone who might be good in the area in which you're weak?

Family Reminders

Discover Class

Come join us Sundays at 10 am for this informal class where we learn about how our stories fit into God's Story. Questions and discussion are welcomed. See the Welcome Center to learn more or to sign up.

Growth Groups

Growth Groups are in session—these are our way of connecting to one another at the small group level. To find out more about our growth groups, please visit the Welcome Center at the back of the auditorium.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Saturday, February 18th: Matching prime timers with young marrieds for a dinner date night. Sign up TODAY at the Welcome Center and fill out the questionnaire. Contact Jim Mackie at 904-477-9291 or idmackie@comcast.net or Debbie at 904-535-5603 or debbiemackie1@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Share Your Treasures

Our annual Share Your Treasures Day is coming March 4th. More info will follow, but please be saving your household "treasures" for this great opportunity to give to our community!