

Jubilee Outreach Small Group Bible Study Praying For those Who Need Jesus

Read I Timothy 2:1-4

According to verse 4, what is the desire of God's heart?

According to I Timothy 2:1, what is our part in fulfilling the desire of God's heart?

If we are not praying for people, perhaps we have a lack of understanding when it comes to the destiny of those who don't know Jesus. Read Luke 13:24-28, and Matthew 8:12.

How do we pray for those who need Jesus?

Pray _____ - I Tim. 2:2

Pray _____ - Roman 10:1

Pray _____ - Matthew 7:7

ACTION: Call your group this week and discuss with them, "what does it take to get a burden for those who do not know Jesus Christ?"

Jubilee Outreach Small Group Bible Study

God's Answer is at the Door!

1. What kind of news would cause you to say, "Well, I can't believe it"? What would it take to convince you it was true?
2. After reading *Acts 12: 1-5*...
 - a. Why would King Herod want to please the Jews?
 - b. What kind of connection does *Verse 2* have with *Verse 5*?
 - c. What do you think would happen to your faith if the government murdered one of your closest friends because he/she believed in Jesus?
3. *Acts 12: 6-11*...
 - a. List the obstacles Peter has to pass before he "came to himself" in *verse 11*.
 - b. What is the one "prison" God has delivered you from? How did he do it?
 - c. What have you learned from that deliverance to share with someone else?
4. *Acts 12: 12-17*
 - a. What could have been some of the comments in the room between *verses 15-16*?
 - b. How are we like the people at that prayer meeting?
 - c. What are some of your prayers that you would be surprised if God answered? Why?

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"Affecting" Service

1. When it's all said and done and life is over what would you like people to say at your funeral?
2. In *Romans 12:1*, what does it mean to give God "a living sacrifice"? How is this to be lived out in daily life and what is "reasonable service" and "spiritual worship"?
3. Read *Acts 9:36-43*. How did Tabitha's life measure up to the above terms?
4. Who is our perfect model for living service? (*Mark 10:45*)
5. Why do you think Tabitha's service had such an impact on lives?
6. In every person's life there are areas that we have control over, areas our actions have influence over and areas that are beyond what we can control or influence. Describe each of these areas in the life of Tabitha. What area was her service to the widows found in?
7. What areas do we have control over in our service to our family? What about areas of influence? What do we do with areas beyond our control? (*1 Peter 5:6-7*)
8. According to *Ephesians 2:10* what were we created in Christ to do? Why does God stress this so much here?
9. Read *Matthew 20:20-24*. How does God's way of service differ from the ways of getting to the top in this world?
10. What do we learn about Paul and why he was effective in his service to Christ? (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*)
11. Discuss this – "It is amazing what can be done for Christ when we don't care who gets the credit."
12. What are some of the joys and benefits that come into a person's life when they really take hold of the concept of being God's servant by serving others in the name of Jesus?

Jubilee Outreach Small Group Bible Study

The Renewing Of the Mind/How to Renew Your Mind

Born of the Spirit

1. In *John 4:24*, what is God and if we are to worship Him, how must we worship Him?
2. In *John 3:3-6*, Jesus told Nicodemus that if anyone was to enter the kingdom of God, what was it that had to happen?
3. According to *II Corinthians 5:17*, when the Spirit is re-created within us, what happens?
4. What effect does being born again, born of the Spirit, have on the body, on the mind, or on the personality?

What is Your Soul?

1. The word "soul" (when used in distinction from Spirit) refers to a man's mind (intellect) and his emotions.
2. What does *III John 2 (KJ)* say about our soul? And, how is our health connected to the soul? Pay attention to the reference "even as".
3. Talk about this statement: "The soul is the realm in which salvation progresses."
4. What is a prosperous soul? What does the word "hypocrite" mean? What is it that we are to do that is the opposite of being a hypocrite according to verses *II John 3-4* that results in a prosperous soul?

Your Mind Controls Your Life

1. Your mind is part of your soul. Let's look at *Romans 8:5-8*.
 - a. What do we learn about the mind here?
 - b. How can it work?
 - c. What are the two ways it can work?
2. Where does the big battle take place over whether we're going to be spiritual or carnal?
3. How do we win the battle?

What is the Renewing of the Mind?

1. Read *Romans 12:2*. If we are not transformed by the renewing of our mind, what's going to happen?
2. When our minds are transformed by the renewing of the mind, what does this prove?
3. Write down what we must do to have our minds renewed.
4. Discuss this: Without the renewing of the mind, we walk by sight.
5. Discuss this: Without the renewing of the mind, we live by emotions.

A Mirror

1. How is God's Word like a mirror to us? (*James 1:22-24*)
2. Read *II Corinthians 3:18*. Why is it that we look into the mirror of God's Word, it reflects the glory of God?

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Growing Spiritually

1. How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?
2. Jesus offered "living water" to the Samaritan woman (*John 4: 10*). What claims did He make about this very special water?
3. What did He mean by "living water"? (*Isaiah 44: 3-4 & John 7: 37-39*)
4. What is this "thirst" (*John 4: 14*) and how had the woman been trying to quench her thirst in the past? (*John 4: 17-18 & Isaiah 55: 1-2*)
5. Why didn't the woman understand what Jesus meant by "living water"?
6. How had you tried to quench the thirsts of your life before meeting Jesus?
7. As soon as the Samaritan woman perceived that the conversation was heading toward religion, she tried to keep it from becoming personal by employing a common tactic. What was it and how did Jesus handle her evasiveness? (*John 4: 19-24*)
8. Why was Jesus no longer hungry when the disciples returned with food? (*John 4: 31-34*)
9. When Jesus referred to the harvest, what did He mean? (*John 4: 35*) Who are the harvesters and reapers? (*2Corinthians 5: 18-20*)
10. Who are you praying for that they will receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? List their names and pray for them now and throughout the weeks to come.

Jubilee Outreach Small Group Bible Study

Test for True Repentance

Repentance is taken for granted by some Christians, thinking that it is automatic for them whenever they decide to confess something. However, the Bible indicates it is a gift from God. True repentance involves brokenness in a person, an awareness of a holy God, and the ugliness of one's sin. It involves taking full responsibility for what was done, a willingness to walk through the consequences, and a desire to undo any harm or injustice that may have occurred as a result of the sin.

Here are some questions that should help determine whether there is only sorrow or a true repentance.

1. Are you accountable or willing to be accountable to someone for the purpose of restoration?
2. Are you blaming anyone else in any way?
3. Are you justifying yourself in any way?
4. Are you willing to do anything within reason that may be necessary to make things right?
5. Are you willing to restore anything stolen?
6. Are you willing to go to the people you sinned against?
7. Are you overly concerned of what people may think or say about you and your sin?

Words of confession really don't mean anything. It is the genuine change or turn around that is the proof or fruit of repentance. So, time is needed to indicate whether there was only sorrow or actual repentance.

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Godly Repentance – Pt. 1

ICEBREAKER: When was the last time you had to admit you were wrong? Was it easy or hard?

READ: Proverbs 6:30-31

1. In what ways can we make practical restitution for a wrong doing? A truly repentant person admits wrongdoing regardless of the situation. They are not concerned what people think, so they will do whatever is necessary to rectify the problem or even make restitution, if the situation calls for that. Yes restitution can be an important part of repentance; after all, the thief is required to return what he stole in Proverbs.

READ: Luke 19:8

2. Can we sin intentionally and presume on the kindness of God to grant us repentance?

READ: Hebrews 12:17

True repentance is designed to have us agree with Jesus that:

- we were guilty
- that it was wrong
- He can remove it as far as the east is from the west (Psalms 103:12).

Then, we are no longer guilty and free from the weight of guilt and condemnation that accompanied it.

The intent of the Lord is to complete the good work He started at our salvation (Philippians 1:6); that is, to lead us in a walk of repentance (change) that would transform us into His image.

3. Is there a specific area in your life where you feel God has begun a noticeable transformation into His image?

READ: 2 Cor. 3:18 and Romans 12:1-2

God's desire is our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3). If we allow Him to do this we are truly being led by the Holy Spirit.

ACTION: Pray that God will show you specific areas in your life where you need sanctification. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you in a greater way.

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Godly Repentance – Pt. 2

ICEBREAKER: Before coming to the Lord, what was your greatest regret?

READ: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word repentance? Repentance is not just confessing or acknowledging you were wrong (I'm sorry is not good enough). It is a deep regret for what you have done, realizing you have been wrong before God and may even have hurt others. As a result there is a heartfelt commitment not to continue in or repeat the sin/action. It follows that you won't be rationalizing what you did or in any way be blaming others for your sin. It also follows that you would do what ever it took to get right with God and make it right with others (if you have hurt or offended them).

2. Have you ever had a deep regret for something you have done? What did you do about it?

READ: Ps 51:17 Metanoia: Greek for change of mind (heart), a reversal, to think differently. The real test for repentance is whether the person has actually changed and no longer exhibits the sinful behavior, or at least is actively engaged in battling to overcome it. That's why John the Baptist said in Luke 3:8 to bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.

3. When you repent, is it mostly feeling sorry or is it true repentance? How can you tell?

READ: Luke 3:8-14 There can be a confession without repentance that can be deceiving since there may solely be an outward appearance of contrition. That is, there can be a confession from the mouth that is not from the heart

4. Does repentance mean agreement or disagreement with God? In First John it states that we must confess our sins. The word confess here is *homologeō* in the Greek which means to say the same thing as; to agree with. This means our confession must be based on seeing the sin as God sees it, agreeing it is as bad as He says it is.

ACTION: Spend time in prayer for Godly repentance.

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Powerful Praying! - Touch Your Friends through Prayer

ICEBREAKER: Before you came to Christ, was anyone praying for you to come to know Him?

READ: Ephesians 3:14-21

1. How often do you pray for those you love? Who do you pray for?
2. What did Paul request in prayer for those in Ephesus? (Ephesians 3:16)
3. Through whom would the Ephesians be strengthened and for what purpose? (3:16-17)
4. How and when have you allowed God to become too small in your life?
5. Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be "rooted" and "established in love"?
6. What does Paul go on to say about the love of Christ? (3:19)
7. What did Paul say as he closed his prayer? (3:20-21)
8. How do Paul's words encourage you? (3:20-21)

DISCUSS: Talk about how you can improve in your intercessory prayer (prayers for the needs and well-being of others).

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Life by the Spirit

ICEBREAKER: If you could change one habit or personality trait in yourself, what would it be?

READ: Galatians 5:16 – 25

1. What is the conflict that Paul is describing in Galatians 5:17?
2. How can this conflict be overcome? (Galatians 5:16, 24, 25)
3. In your opinion, what acts of the sin nature are most prevalent in your city? (5:19-21)
4. Which acts of the sin nature have you observed among those who claim to be following Jesus Christ? (5:19-21)
5. How do Christians try to excuse the behavior of their old nature?
6. What happens to a Christian who is living under the control of the Holy Spirit? (5:22-23)
7. What are some of the changes that have occurred in your life since you became a Christian?
8. How has living to please God affected your behavior and lifestyle?
9. How have you seen the fruit of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in your life?

What can you do this week to nurture the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life?

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The Shrewd Manager

1. What is the difference between a manager and an owner?
In what way(s) are you an owner?
In what way(s) are you a manager?
2. Read *Luke 16: 1-2*. What was the manager accused of doing?
What did he do with this prospect? (*Luke 16: 3-9*)
Why did Jesus call this man "shrewd"?
3. What are some ways we can put worldly wealth to the best use?
How can money produce eternal benefits? (*Matthew 6: 19-21*)
4. Who gives us the power to gain wealth? (*Deuteronomy 8: 18*)
Discuss this quote: "It's not how much you make, but what you do with it that really counts."
5. Share you own experiences with *Proverbs 3: 9-10 and Luke 6: 38*.
6. Back to the *Luke 16* story... is there a relationship between how we handle "worldly wealth" and our spiritual growth?
7. Share ways that will encourage each other in how to become better managers of what God (the owner) has given us.

Jubilee Outreach Small Group Bible Study

Stewardship: Managing Your Time and Temple (Body)

Stewardship involves managing someone else's property or possessions. A Christian steward is one who manages his life and resources to the glory of God, since he and all he has belongs to God. The Christian steward offers the whole of his life as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1) realizing that all men will give an account to God for the way they have lived. (Romans 14:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

1. How would you rate your present job performance as a manager of your time and temple?
2. Your Time is a gift from God. If you are a wise steward and obey the commands of our Lord, how will you use your time? (Ephesians 5:15-17)
3. In Matthew 6:33-34, what two things are believers told to seek?
4. How did Paul instruct the Thessalonian Christians to manage their time? (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
5. How might you improve the way you use your time?
6. Your Temple (body) is a gift from God to be managed for His glory. What does it mean to you to be the temple of the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
7. What does Paul urge you to do with your body? (Romans 12:1)
8. What does Paul say we should avoid in managing our bodies for God's glory? (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)
9. What are some changes you might make in order to take better care of your "temple"? Consider areas such as eating, exercise, rest and habits that hinder your spiritual walk or witness.

Accept the position as God's steward of your time and temple.

- a. Acknowledge God's ownership
- b. Thank Him for all He has given
- c. Determine to manage all your resources to the glory of God

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Small Things

ICEBREAKER: When was the last time you did something nice for someone?

Not just for a fellow Christian, but for someone you know who seems to show no interest in having a relationship with Christ.

SCRIPTURES: Luke 15, Matthew 10:42

Sometimes when we hear the word evangelism we can feel a bit overwhelmed. We may think of it as difficult and unnatural for us. Yet evangelism should be simple, natural and very "do-able". In our scripture, Jesus spoke about giving a cup of cold water to a little child, I think we are all capable of that.

Here are some ideas on how you can evangelize through relational acts of kindness:

- Asking someone "How are you?" and really listening to them.
- Praying for a co-worker behind their back.
- Asking a waiter, your hairdresser, mechanic or doctor about his life outside of work.
- Being unusually interested in someone else (neighbor, co-worker, child's teacher, etc.).

Is there anything you can think of? Are they worth your time and effort? I think so.

Like the sheep, coin and son in Luke 15 they are not lost, just missing. It's our responsibility to help them find their way to God.

ACTION: Pray!

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Christian Stewardship

ICEBREAKER: What is the largest sum of money you ever found? What did you do with it? What is the largest sum of money you ever lost? How did you lose it?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 14:19, "And he blessed him, and said, Blessed [be] Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And bless be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Tithing finds its entrance into the scripture before the law as Abraham gives tithes to Melchizedek, priest of the most high God. Just like faith, tithing was a major part of the life-style of our father Abraham. How should we, as Christian, view tithing as a part of our faith?

Galatians 3:8-9, "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, [saying] in thee shall nations be blessed. So them they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." We often hear of the "Blessing of Abraham", how is giving tithes related to blessings?

Galatians 3:16-18 teaches us that the promise was given to Abraham 430 years before the Law, and that the Law would not make the promise void. Faith and tithing come from Abraham and are New Testament principles. Give a personal testimony of how tithing has blessed your life.

Give a personal testimony of other areas of stewards with our money and other resources?

MINISTRY EXERCISE: Break into groups of 3 or 4 and discuss areas of stewardship in your life and pray for each other to receive the "Blessings of Abraham."

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Power and Responsibility

Matthew 28: 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, " All power has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations... vs. 20, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always....

1. The word power means authority. Whose authority is it, God's or ours?
 2. Does receiving His authority place us under His authority?
 3. Is the command to "Go" a universal commission for all believers or just for a select few?
 4. Because Jesus is commanding us to "Go", does this mean "all power" has been given to us as well? Why?
 5. With power comes responsibility .Do I need to change my lifestyle, in order to accept the "all power"?
 6. What responsibility is included with the promise of this power?
 7. A father would not entrust a son with power if the son were careless in the use of it. Is our Heavenly Father any different?
 8. "To observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" speaks of purity. Is it possible to have the power without the purity?
- Discuss with your group an area in your life that you want to see purified for the Lord.

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Sharing His Love

The following study lesson has not been designed to be an in depth bible word study. Its goal is to help us adopt the values and lifestyle of our Lord Jesus. Your participation is encouraged. Please feel free to give personal insight into the topics discussed.

There are three powerful ways of sharing the love of the Father:

1. Listening
2. Asking caring questions
3. Serving

James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry.

One of the most powerful ways to express love to unbelievers is to genuinely listen to them. When unbelievers sense that we want to quickly fix their problems, dispense advice, stuff the Bible down their throat, or that they are our "evangelism project," they are apt to get angry or defensive. Listen nonjudgmentally with acceptance. Keeping confidences builds a bridge of trust. Don't offer platitudes for difficult situations.

Reflect on what you have heard, for example:

- "Let me see if I understand you correctly.
- "Am I correct in saying....?"
- "Are you saying.....?"

Discuss with your cell this week how you can tell when somebody is really listening to you!

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Working It Through

Scripture References:

- Colossians 1:9-10
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Psalm 119:15-16
- Romans 12:2

After we have been in Christ and in the Christian life for a while, we "see" more of God and of ourselves. As our soul (mind, will, emotions) become more saturated with His Holy Spirit, He is more revealed to us as He really is. We are given pieces at a time, if you will, of spiritual understanding. The light of Truth gets brighter and brighter. When we "see" these bits of Truth, though, for the first time we mustn't think we've arrived and that's it. We must work through the understanding of what we've seen. When we see more of the road, we must then travel it in order to fully experience where it is taking us. We can't just say "cool, that's good stuff!" It very well may be, but you'll never experience it in your life unless you work it out in your self. Our scripture references tell us that it is possible to know fully and have spiritual insight; that we must "work out" what has been given us by God; and that part of doing that is for us to meditate, consider, study, and generally let our minds be overtaken by the Truth that we've been given. If we do this we will fully know and experience the Truth and Light of God in our every-day lives - and so will everyone around us!

Questions:

1. Share with the group a time when you "saw" something in God. What was that like for you?
 2. What does it mean to "work through" the Truth that you have seen?
 3. Why is it important for us to do this in our Christian life?
- ACTION!** Let's all think of one thing, one Truth that has been

"revealed" to us
and start an intentional journey to really get to know the depth of that
thing so we
can see it operate in our lives.