

small things BIG DIFFERENCE

Week 1

Life Group Notes

Process (what has been taught) - 10 minutes

In Colossians 3:1-17 Paul exhorts the believers to “Set their minds on things above and not on earthly things”. Sanctification is the Holy Spirit’s work that see us more and more resemble Christ. He uses tools such as bible reading, prayer, suffering etc to hold and shape us, but this requires effort on our part. It’s different from justification:

- Justification occurs at a point in time; sanctification is a process over time. (Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Cor. 1:18; Heb. 10:14)
- Justification refers to how we stand before God; sanctification refers to how we live before God. (Rom. 5:1-8:39; Gal. 2:15-21)
- Justification knows no degrees; sanctification progresses in degrees. (2 Cor. 3:18)

Sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit, using the process of spiritual formation, that results in a whole inner life that takes on the character of Jesus.

Spiritual formation is a consciously chosen, routinely enabled and sustained relationship of interaction with the Lord.

Prepare (for godliness) - 20 minutes

Think about the definition of spiritual formation given above. Discuss what the three parts mean (1. consciously chosen; 2. routinely enabled 3. sustained)

(Read Philippians 2:12,13 - According to this passage, what is God’s role in our spiritual growth?”
What does that really mean? How might the group members see God do this?)

Is there anything we can do in this partnership with the Holy Spirit to better experience God’s direction and learning in our attitudes and desires? What can we do?

What is our part in the process? Where do you feel you need to make consistent good choices? It would be helpful to share some of the groups victories.

Practice (of godliness) - 10 minutes

Take time for people to write quietly in their journals. Ask the group members to make two columns - one column has the heading "Put On", and the other column has the "Put off". Ask the group members to think about their response to Colossians 3:1-17 and what things in their own lives do they need to "put on" and "put off".

Finally, at the bottom of the two columns ask them to write out 1 Peter 3:18

Pray (for godliness) - 15 minutes

Use this time to pray for one other.