

# small things BIG DIFFERENCE

## Week 4

### Life Group Notes

#### Process (what has been taught) - 5 minutes

Colossians 3:15-16

- The Bible is someone else's mail - written for someone else.
- In the same way, "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs", belong (primarily) to someone else (i.e. the author).
  - Had you ever thought about the bible as someone else's mail and someone else story before last Sunday?
  - How has your understanding of how to apply your life to the Bible changed?

Read Revelation 19:1-16

- Without getting sidetracked on end times theology (!) ... who is the main focus in this passage? How is Jesus described?
- Where does the hymn "Crown Him with many Crowns" come from in the text?
  - Where did the poetic meaning take you as it was unpacked verse by verse?
- What did you learn about worship from his hymn? Did this hymn awaken you?

#### Prepare (for godliness) - 10 minutes

- What does this hymn "Crown Him with many Crowns" say about God and about you that would change your life as you take it to heart?
  - As a group, use the triangulation model that was discussed a few weeks ago to create just one triangle that expresses the thought of this hymn. Ask them to draw it out in their journals.

#### Practice (of godliness) - 45 minutes

- Read Psalm 37:7 and ask group members to use the triangulation model that we used in previous weeks to outline 1) things that are true about God, 2) things that are true about David's situation, 3) David's faith response.
- Now we're going to examine Katherine von Schlegel's response to Psalm 37:7. Hand out the "Be Still My Soul" handout (appendix 1)
- Read the hymn "Be Still My Soul" (below) three or four times ensuring that people are reading aloud different lines on the second, third and fourth time through.
- Read slowly a line at a time and identify the ...:
  - "Stop and Think" phrases
  - Things that are true about God, who He is, His promises etc

- Faith response of creatures to God
- Things about our situation that necessitates Christ's mercies, our need; troubles & suffering
- Things about you, your need, struggles & sin

You will probably end up with something that looks similar (although not exactly like the annotation below, please also note that this example shouldn't be used for critique):

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
 Leave to your God to order and provide;  
 In every change he faithful will remain.  
 Be still, my soul your best, your heavenly Friend  
 Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul your God will undertake  
 To guide the future as he has the past.  
 Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
 Be still, my soul; the waves and wind still know  
 His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart  
 And all is darkened in the vale of tears;  
 Then you will better know his love, his heart,  
 Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
 Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
 From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hastening on  
 When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
 When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
 Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
 All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

#### STOP & THINK

BLUE - things about God, who He is, His promises etc

GREEN - the faith response (when we are wired rightly) of creatures to God

ORANGE - things about our situation that necessitates Christ's mercies, our need; troubles & suffering

Ask the following questions:

- What for you is the most powerful phrase in the hymn? Why?
- In what ways does God promise to meet us in our struggle?
- Discuss in this context: “we do not apply the Bible to our lives, but our lives to the Bible:

**Pray (for godliness)** - 15 minutes

Before you pray together, if you have time ask the group members to A.C.T.S Psalm 37:7 (appendix 2 for example) in their journals (otherwise suggest that they complete it during the week). Then pray.

## Appendix 1

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

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## Appendix 2

### Praying Psalm 37:7 using ACTS

**A** - The Lord is high above the heavens yet He condescends to us. He comes to us. He is merciful in that He allows us into His presence.

**C** - I can be too busy. Far too busy. I am often guilty of rushing my devotion time or snatching prayers. I'm also incredibly impatient, this makes me jealous over those who do not walk with God, yet seem to prosper, even when they do it sinfully. I can see that this is just pride.

**T** - Thank you for your mercy to me - even though I'm not better than the man in this verse, you still choose to come to me  
Thank you that your acceptance of me isn't based on my busy-ness but on yours.

**S** - Please help me to slow down, to be simple and stop rushing believing I can fix things. Believing that I can fix me. Please help me to delight myself in your ways believing that prosperity isn't found in earthly success but in heavenly success.