

# small things BIG DIFFERENCE

## Week 6

### Life Group Notes

#### Process (what has been taught) - 15 minutes

Read Galatians 4:1-19 together. Paul's main argument is:

1. We have been made sons through Jesus Christ (1-5,7)
2. We have been given the Spirit of God through Jesus Christ (6)
3. We are being changed (sanctified) by the Spirit of God forming Jesus in us (19)

Read Galatians 3:5. By what means does the Spirit's miraculous work of transformation take place?  
(A: by faith i.e. when we put into action our belief we are inviting the Holy Spirit to do His transforming work in us, forming Christ in us.)

Ask: what changes are you slowly making in your daily or weekly routine as a result of understanding that change happens when we slow down, listen to God speak and cooperate in obedience by faith?

#### Prepare (for godliness) - 40 minutes

Read James 1:17. Each new day brings us 24 hours, 1440 minutes, 86,000 seconds, each moment a precious gift from God, each calling for us to be good stewards, mindful that one day we must give an account for how we spent the time God loaned us, how effectively we "bought up" the opportunities He provided. If someone gave us £1440 each day and said spend it or lose it, how diligent would we be to comply?

- Read Romans 13:12; There are two things that Paul says about the current time we live in. What are they? Discuss what this means.
  - Because of the time, what two things should we do?
- Read Luke 12:56. What does Jesus say about living our the reality of the present time.
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. According to Paul why are we here? What does it mean to be an ambassador?

#### Priorities

Have you ever thought that making God the number 1 priority in your life is a problem or even unbiblical? How does Jesus' words to "Seek first the Kingdom" challenge this idea of priorities?

- Read Psalm 27:4, Luke 10:42, Philippians 3:13 to get more perspective.

- Read. Matthew 10:37-39. How does this compare with the idea of priorities?
  - What does seeking the Kingdom look like in my marriage?
  - How do I bring the Kingdom to bear on my home?
  - How do I love God 100% in my studies?

The Biblical work pattern is 6 days of work and 1 day of rest. For those who work for 5 days, what do you do with your 6th day? (note: “family time” doesn’t count as “work” in this sense). What could you do?

**A side note about Silence**

“Centering prayer” or “the prayer of silence” or “contemplative prayer” or “listening prayer”, or the idea that God is most truly known in the experiences of silence is a Buddhist ideology that the Bible never teaches. Instead, silence is commanded to those who lack of faith (Job 13:5, Job 13:13, Job 21:5, James 1:19), so that they might hear God speak and be filled with faith (Romans 10:17).

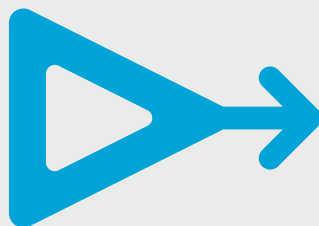
**Practice (of godliness) - 10 minutes**

Read: Matthew 11:28-30 and discuss the triangulations from Sunday’s service (or allow time for people to do them). What are some of the faith responses that group members wrote about? How are they going with these so far this week?

Here is mine:

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30*

*God welcomes the weary  
 God is the source of rest  
 God has an easy yoke  
 God is wise  
 God is gentle  
 God is humble  
 God’s burden is light*



*Stop.  
 Slow Down  
 Turn off the telly  
 Unplug my headphones  
 Turn off my phone*

*Sometimes I see the tasks I have as MY burden and I don’t stop and come to God with them*

*Thank God for the truth of Matthew 11:28-30*

**Pray (for godliness)** - 15 minutes  
Use this time to pray for one other.