

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 17, 2004

Passage: Habakkuk 2:4-8

Memory Passage: James 4:6

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:4. What two classes of people are mentioned in verse 4? What is the main difference between them? (b) Read a couple of different translations. What terms are used to describe the first person? (c) Is pride a barrier to faith? In what ways? Is faith contrary to pride? How? (d) What do these verses tell us about how God treats the proud (Job 40:6; Proverbs 6:16-19; 15:25)? (e) What do these verses tell us about how God responds to the humble (2 Kings 22:19; 2 Chronicles 12:12; 2 Chronicles 32:26; 33:12-13)? (f) What should we conclude about the need for a humble spirit (Proverbs 16:19)? Ask God to give you a humble heart that reflects a constant dependence on Him.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:5-20. Mark every use of the word “woe.” Make a list of the reasons why God pronounces woes on the Chaldeans. (b) What are some of the effects that pride has on a person (Habakkuk 2:5)? How are they similar to someone under the influence of alcohol? In what way is pride “like the grave and death” (also see Proverbs 30:16)? (c) Read Habakkuk 2:5-8. What does God say the oppressed nations will one day do to the Chaldeans? (Compare Jeremiah 50:29-34 with Habakkuk 2:7). (d) Does God always punish sin (Ecclesiastes 10:8; Galatians 6:7; Numbers 32:23)? When (Isaiah 13:9-11)? (e) Why should believers be encouraged in times of oppression (Psalm 31:22-24)? (f) Ask the Lord to strengthen your heart in the difficulties you face this week.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Psalm 10. What is the complaint of the righteous? How is it similar to Habakkuk’s complaint? (b) What does the wicked do in *his pride* (verses 2-11)? What are the similarities to the Chaldeans? How do the proud generally treat others? Why? (c) What is the proud man’s attitude toward God (verses 4, 11, 12)? What is his attitude about himself (verse 6)? (d) What does the psalmist cry out to God to do (verses 12-16)? Why? (e) What danger arises when we are prospering according to Deuteronomy 8:12-19? What should be the attitude of those who become rich (1 Timothy 6:17-19)? (f) Pray the prayer of Proverbs 30:7-9. Pray that the Lord will keep you humble whenever He blesses you.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Luke 18:9-14. Why did Jesus tell this parable? Why was one man justified and the other not? (b) What does this tell you about what God values? What does God say about the humble heart in Isaiah 55:17? (c) Read Luke 18:15-17. Why were the disciples bothered by little children coming to Jesus? Could this be an evidence of pride too? What did Jesus teach them about entrance into his kingdom? (d) Read Luke 18:18-30. Does this person have an issue of pride? How is it apparent? What illustration of salvation does Jesus give his disciples? What promise does he give to all who forsake all to follow him? (e) Can the proud be saved? Why or why not? What is required for a person to be saved? (f) Spend time this morning thanking God for His mercy toward you!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read 1 Peter 5:5 and James 4:6. How does God act toward the proud? What does He give to those who are humble? (b) What kind of attitude should those who “live by faith” have (Romans 12:3; Galatians 6:1-3; Philippians 2:3-4)? (c) Read Psalm 40:1-5. What did the psalmist do in his difficulty? How is this similar to what Habakkuk did in 2:1-3? What were the results of his actions? *How* was he encouraged during his time of waiting for God to act? (d) What did the psalmist do when the proud oppressed him (Psalm 119:21-22, 51-52, 69-70, 78)? What does he *consistently* turn to? (e) What was Paul’s attitude toward those who wronged him (2 Timothy 4:14; Romans 12:17-21)? (f) Pray for someone today who has been giving you a difficult time. Pray that you can learn to trust the Lord and not take vengeance into your own hands.

What have you learned about the dangers of pride and how it affects your life?

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The Peril of Pride

“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”