

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 29, 2004

Passage: John 21:15-25

Memory Passage: Luke 9:23

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 John 21:15-17. What was the importance of Jesus asking Peter the same question three times? (b) How is the first question different from the rest? Why would Jesus ask the question in this way (John 13:37-38; Matthew 26:33)? (c) What was Jesus trying to emphasize to Peter (James 3:2; John 8:2-7)? Why is this characteristic essential for leadership (1 Peter 5:1-4)? (d) Why is this essential for anyone trying to minister to others (Galatians 6:1-3)? (e) What was Paul's attitude toward himself (1 Timothy 1:15)? Is this attitude essential to care for others? Why or why not? (f) Pray that God will give you a humble heart, to see your own sin as greater than you see the sins of others.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 21:15-17 again. Two Greek terms for love are used in this passage: *agape* and *phileo*. Using a concordance or other help, find the differences in their meaning. (b) Looking at the words used in the questions of Jesus, how do the second and third questions differ? (c) How does Peter answer Jesus? What does this tell us about Peter's change of heart? (d) To what does Peter appeal to (especially see the third answer) when Jesus asks these questions? What has Peter learned about the knowledge of God? (e) Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-4. What did Paul know about his own heart and motives? Who alone knows all the thoughts and motives of our hearts? How did understanding the omniscience of God affect Paul's attitude about himself? (f) Read Psalm 139:1-4, 17-18. Thank God for His infinite knowledge of you and pray Psalm 139:23-24 for yourself today.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 21:15-17 a third time. What does Jesus tell Peter to do? Who are these sheep/lambs? (b) What has Jesus told us about himself (John 10:11)? To whom has he committed the care of his flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4)? (c) From our perspective, Peter did not give positive answers. Yet Jesus still entrusts him with the care of his flock. What does this tell us that our Lord *treasures most* in his leaders? How do James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 explain this? (d) How should we respond to those in leadership (Hebrews 13:17-18)? (e) What is the greatest evidence of *our* love for our Lord (1 John 4:19-21; John 13:34-35)? (f) Pray that God will give *your leaders* hearts of honesty and humility (Hebrews 13:18) and pray that *you* will love each member of His flock.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 21:18-19. What is the final word of prophecy that Jesus gives to Peter? What kind of death did he die? (b) What phrase does John use to describe the death of Peter? Why is this significant? (c) What was Paul's attitude toward suffering and death (Philippians 1:21, 29)? How did that affect his view of circumstances (Philippians 1:12-14)? (d) What happens when we handle suffering with joy (Philippians 2:14-16)? (e) What did Peter tell his readers about suffering in 1 Peter 1:6-7? How did the early church respond to suffering (Acts 4:23-31)? Do you think that a poor attitude toward suffering and death often hinders our ability to give glory to God? Explain. (f) When have you failed to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4) and "grumbled and complained" instead (Philippians 2:14). Ask for forgiveness and for a heart to see suffering and death as opportunities to "glorify God."

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 21:20-25. What concern did Peter raise? Are such concerns common or unique to Peter? (b) How did Jesus answer his concern? What did Jesus tell Peter should be *his only* concern? (c) Even though we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses," who does the author of Hebrews tell us to keep our eyes on (Hebrews 12:1-3)? Why? (d) Read Luke 9:23-27. What three things did Jesus say anyone would have to do to "come after him?" What do each of these mean? *How often* are we to do these? What will result if we do not do these? (e) How does the Gospel of John conclude? What does this tell us about the relationship between evidence and faith? (f) Ask the Lord to show you areas of your life that need to be changed for you to fully follow Him. Pray that you can keep your eyes off others and only on Christ as you follow him daily.

What have you learned today about following Jesus?

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Following the Risen Christ
“What is that to you? You follow Me.”