

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: Hebrews 10:24-25

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) We are entering our 2nd week of looking at our church covenant, and as a reminder, you can find our Church Covenant online here: <http://www.cabotbible.com/ChurchMembership.htm>. We will be looking at points 3 & 4 this week.

(b) **Read Heb. 10:19-25.** What is the basis given in vs. 19-22 for the three commands found in vs. 22-25 (vs. 19-22: “therefore . . . since . . . and since”)? What has Christ accomplished for us upon which the writer bases the following commands?

(c) What is the first “let us” command (v. 22)? How is this command tied to the foundational truths of vs. 19-21? Why are we able to draw near to God?

(d) What is the second “let us” command (v. 23)? How is this command tied to the foundational truths of vs. 19-21? What is the confession of our hope to which we are to hold fast? What is the reason that we can hold fast?

(e) *Family:* **PRIOR TO YOUR WORSHIP TIME Read Exodus 16.** As you read, take notes so that you will be able to vividly describe the activities on the Day of Atonement. Then **Read Matthew 27:45-51.** Explain the symbolism of the veil being torn from top to bottom, a veil that separated men from God and is said to be as thick as a man’s hand is long, representing believers now having access to God because of Christ and His perfect once-for-all sacrifice. Now **Read Hebrews 10:19-22** and explain that we can enter boldly into His presence because, if we repent of our sins and trust in Christ for salvation, Christ has provided for us holiness so that we can enter into the Holy of Holies and be in God’s presence.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 10:24-25.** What is the 3rd “let us” command (v. 24)? To what two things are we to “stir up” (cause) one another? What is the habit of some, according to v. 25, which the writer commands us to stop? So what is the writer presupposing must happen if we are to function well together as a body?

(b) To what activity does the writer exhort us in v. 25? To what are we to encourage one another? What is “the Day” that is drawing near and why should it cause us to be all the more active in our encouragement?

(c) What does “meeting together” (v. 25) include? Is it corporate worship? Corporate worship only? Other gatherings of the church? Individual pursuits? Think of all the times you can “meet together” in the typical week at BCC. Are you obeying this command? Why is it necessary/beneficial? How are these gatherings “stirring up one another to love and good works?”

(d) *Family:* **Read Heb. 10:24-25.** Using the left side of your white board, make a list of all the times during a typical month that your family meets together with other believers at BCC (worship, small group, Sunday school, fellowships, etc). On the right side of your white board, have your family list all of the times they stir up others, or are stirred up themselves, to be active with love and good works. Then discuss how you might do more to stir up these affections in others.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Cor. 9:3-14.** What is Paul’s main argument in these verses? How does he defend his conclusion? How are we to explain Paul’s use of Deut. 25:4 in his defense of providing material support to gospel preachers?

(b) Why does Paul argue for this kind of material provision for gospel proclaimers, but then say that he is not making use of these rights, nor is he arguing for these rights for himself (v. 15)?

(c) Who are the gospel proclaimers who should “get their living by the gospel” from BCC? How should we make decisions on who gains their living from BCC? How does this passage affect our missions giving? Our hiring of vocational elders?

(d) *Family:* **Read Deut. 25:4.** Explain what it means to tread grain (an ox trampling the grain with its hooves, or pulling a sledge that separated the grain), and what a muzzle is. Paint a vivid picture of the work an ox would do on the threshing floor, and ask, “Why should the ox not be muzzled?” Get them to understand that the ox needs strength to do the work, and that he should eat when he desires of the fruits of his labors (the grain). Then **Read 1 Cor. 9:8-11** and explain how Paul applies this verse to those who proclaim the gospel, and how BCC provides for the material needs of vocational elders and missionaries.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Cor. 16:2.** What is the context of this command? What application should we apply to ourselves?

(b) **Read 2 Cor. 9:6-7.** What is the sound principle Paul provides for us concerning our giving in v. 6? Do you agree with my statement that this principle applies to our giving, and not to other areas of our life (like work or study)? Why do you agree or disagree?

(c) What do vs. 6-7 reveal about the amount we should give to the local church? What do these verses tell us about God's concern in our giving? If we can't give without being reluctant or under compulsion, does that mean we can't/shouldn't give?

(d) **Now Read 2 Cor. 9:8-15.** What are God's promises to you as you give with abandon to the church? For what purpose will God enrich you as you give with abandon to the church? What other blessings come from this type of giving?

(e) *Family:* **Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15.** Spend some time explaining how you give to the church as a family, the process you use to decide how much & how often to give, and why you give. Using the text of 2 Cor. 9:6-15, draw attention to the blessings God promises when we give rightly to His work, and share some testimonies of how God has been faithful to these promises in your life as you have given faithfully. If you don't give faithfully & regularly, and you don't have testimonies concerning God's miraculous faithfulness to you as you have given sacrificially, then spend some time reading and studying 2 Cor. 8 & 9, taking notes, asking God to adjust your practice to His word, and teach your children what you have learned.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Gal. 5:13-15.** What does Paul mean when he writes that we were “called to freedom” (see vs. 1-12)?

(b) What ways might we abuse our freedom and use it “as an opportunity for the flesh?” Have you abused your freedom in these ways? On a scale of 1-10 (10 = highest level of abuse), where do you fall in the area of using your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh? If you struggle with this kind of abuse of freedom, why do you struggle? What ways might you repent and begin to walk in grace with less attention on yourself?

(c) In what should we be engaged if we are not abusing our freedom (v. 13)? Why is this important (v. 14)? What does it mean to “serve” one another (be specific, and write down as many examples as you can think of)? In what ways are you serving others in the body of BCC?

(d) *Family:* **Read Gal. 5:13-15.** Pass out pencils & paper and ask your family to individually write down ways that they serve others through love (if they do not yet write, have someone help them after their own list is made). Encourage them to think of people in the church, not just people in your family. Share a couple of items from your own list, and then have others share their list. Then ask everyone to make a second list of specific ways in which they will serve specific people during the next week. I realize that if your children are not yet saved they will not have spiritual gifts, but encourage your family to think of ways that they can use their giftedness (if not spiritual gifts, then God-given personality traits) for the benefit of others.

DAY 6 –ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matt. 18:15-18.** What is your initial response to the term “church discipline?” Have you ever witnessed/been a part of an instance of church discipline within a church? Was it handled properly? What was the result? How is your opinion shaped by this/these experiences? Do you think church discipline should be practiced? What do the “one anothers” of Scripture have to do with church discipline?

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