

Small Group Notes based on Mother's Day – Faith Goes First

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- This Week: Faith Goes First
- What if we just did what the Bible says? How would things be different?
 - Isn't that one of the big problems with believers? That they just don't do what the Bible says? What if instead of resisting, dreading, refusing...we just did?
 - Are you in with that?
- We could start doing what the Bible says with **Exodus 20:12**.
 - "Honor" in Hebrew means to give weight to.
 - In Greek "honor" mean to value.
 - Should we do that? Seems simple, but not everyone gets real excited about it.
- First, for moms, you just won't get the thanks you deserve.
 - Just like great artists, moms aren't appreciated in their own time!
 - That's ok, you are storing up treasures in heaven!
 - **Matthew 6:1-6** (Read through and apply to parenting.)
- Some people's moms are cool. What if yours isn't?
 - That can throw a whole new monkey wrench in this deal.
 - What if mom isn't honorable? Now what? --- Now it's time to walk by faith...just do what the Bible says.
- Most people have heard **2 Corinthians 5:7**. But how do we live by faith and not by sight?
 - An easy way to understand this is: Faith Goes First.
 - Do you need to see your reward in Heaven before you serve Jesus?
 - Did Abraham see the Promised Land before he left his father's house?
 - **Genesis 12:1** – How would that make you feel?
 - **Genesis 12:4** – That is living by faith. **Hebrews 11:8**.
 - What if we just did what the Bible says? We'd have to live by faith.
- Let's apply this principle of "Faith Goes First" to other relational commands:
 - **Ephesians 5:33 – 6:9**.
 - Love and respect, obey, honor, bring up your kids right, follow your employers directions, treat people fairly when you have the advantage.
 - Obey parents is a good example: do that first before you understand.
 - How does "Faith Goes First" apply here?
- Let's apply the principle of "Faith Goes First" to attitudinal commands:
 - **James 1:2** Consider if pure joy...when?
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:18** Give thanks...when?
 - **Exodus 20:17** Don't covet? How? When?
 - **Mark 11:25** Forgive...when?
- Let's apply the principle of "Faith Goes First" to one more command:
 - **Matthew 16:24** Take up your cross...when?
 - If only we had some decent promises like Abraham did! Oh wait...
 - What if we just did what the Bible says?
 - Let's do that by faith not by sight. It's the only way we will get to see.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!