

Small Group/Sermon Notes for Vision: Reach Up Spring 2017

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.
- **Vision 1: Reach Up**
- Vision Statement: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out.
 - Why do you think it is important to have a vision statement?
- **Mark 12:28-30.**
 - If we get the most important thing wrong, that is going to cause problems.
 - Loving God must be first. Miss that and things break down.
 - Of course we must not love evil. **James 4:4, 1 John 2:15-16.**
 - But Satan has a more subtle plan to pull us away from God, comparing the servants of God.
 - Sometimes there is right and wrong involved.
 - **2 Corinthians 11:1-6, 2 Corinthians 10:12.**
 - This is direct competition, which is of the devil.
 - Paul predicted this in **Acts 20:25-31.**
 - Yuck. The Ephesian elders?? That hurts. Have you seen that sort of thing?
 - Sometimes it is a product of naiveté.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:10-13.**
 - Here, all the parties are good servants of God. No competition, but a similar danger.
 - I appreciate it when people like Good Hope Church. But Kids Church was not crucified for you. You were not baptized into the name of Pastor Mike.
 - Never subvert Christ by competition or comparison. Love God.
- Love God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - You have a magnificent Father in Heaven.
 - You have a loving mediator.
 - You have an intimate counselor and guide.
 - Don't miss one for the other. Have you been drawn to one over another in the past?
- Get a real connection with God.
 - Don't settle for pretending or for an imaginary friend. Some do that!
 - Don't settle for great memories of a vibrant relationship with God. Keep it!
 - How does someone get a real connection with God?
 - Simple, get real with God. Seek and be real. Sinners Prayer.
 - How does someone keep a real connection with God?
 - There are ebbs and flows with relationships. This is true with God too.
 - The disciplines: prayer, worship, Bible study, obeying the Spirit, etc.
 - Simple obedience to the ways of God.
 - Also, I think thankfulness is huge. Miss that and you may fade from God.
- Let's hear some encouraging scriptures about our relationship with God:
 - **Revelation 3:20**
 - **Hebrews 5:14-16**
 - **John 14:18**
 - **John 15:4**
- There is much more. But we can walk with God in this life. Don't miss that!
 - But don't just think on these things. Let's actually Reach Up! **Matt 7:7**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!