

Small Group/Sermon Notes for High Ways Part 3: Sharing Your Faith

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.
- Key Scripture **Isaiah 55:6-9**
 - God's ways are higher than our ways x2:
 - First, God's ways can be hard to understand sometimes.
 - Second, God's ways are much much better than our ways.
- **This week: Sharing Your Faith.**
- Let's talk about the obligation to 'share your faith.'
 - Obviously important, but also frequently awkward and ineffective! Thoughts?
- Jesus and Nicodemus. **John 3:1-17.**
 - What are your takeaways from these verses? But we need to read the next few verses.
 - **John 3:18-21.**
 - Not too many John 3:18 signs at football games!!
- We must understand that there are two possible destinies for each individual person.
 - Eternal life and condemnation. This isn't popular in today's world, but everyone doesn't win.
 - Scary verse **Matthew 7:13-14.** Maybe most lose??
 - This haunts me. I wept at **Romans 9:1-3.**
 - Eternal life is available to everyone. The price has been paid. All that is left is receiving it.
- The Paradigm Shift. (Credits to Andy Stanley.)
 - Who do you have no respect for? No time for? Who you are disgusted by?
 - In Jesus day there were various groups viewed like that. Sinners. Lepers.
 - Jesus changed that. **Luke 5:12-13.**
 - What does that fact that Jesus reached out and touched the man show about God?
 - Jesus at Matthew's house. **Matthew 9:9-13.**
 - Jesus came to save sinners! To sacrifice for the hated outcasts!!!
 - Instead of rejecting the sinner and the leper Jesus calls us to befriend and help them!
 - (Who do you have no respect for? No time for? Who you are disgusted by?)
 - But, who are you and I but cleansed sinners and lepers ourselves!
- Problem: Too many people think, "I hate my life" "I hate myself" "I hate them."
 - Jesus says, "Don't hate yourself. I love you."
 - Response is to love Jesus back and see yourself rightly.
 - That's a good start but don't stop there!!!
 - I think releasing hate is very difficult when you have a false self-concept. (thoughts?)
 - Once you are forgiven and loved you can become secure enough in who you are in Christ to forgive and love others.
 - Jesus says, "Don't hate them. I love them."
 - When you catch this then sharing your faith ceases to be an obligation.
 - They need to be freed and cleansed just like you!
- Some quick observations:
 - Different people have different roles. Just be your best you! Not everyone is an evangelist.
 - The Holy Spirit draws people. Don't force things but help people.
 - Best thing is to simply share what God has done for you.
- What has God done for you?
 - If you're not sure what to say to that, today is the day to change that!
 - Let's live in the power of God so we have something to share!!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!