

Small Group Notes based on Disciple: 9

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.
- But what does it look like to be a disciple?
 - Four Categories to put thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors in:
 - 1: Disciple: follows the ways of God. **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - 2: Church Culture: follows the ways of men. **Mark 7:7-8**
 - 3: Itching Ears: follows the ways of preference. **2 Tim 4:3**
 - 4: Ferocious Wolves: follows the ways of darkness. **Matthew 7:15**
- Today "Spiritual Disciplines."
 - Did you know that there are "Christians" who don't pray, don't fast, don't give, don't read their Bible, and don't go to church?
 - That's just weird isn't it? What would this look like if the concept is applied to hockey?
- Let's go through Matthew 6 to get a picture of how we are to practice these spiritual disciplines:
 - **Matthew 6:1**, we're starting out right!
 - What are these "acts of righteousness?" (Jesus assumes you will be doing these things!)
 - Two ways to do these things: before men and before God.
 - Have you ever done these things before men? How about before God?
 - Giving: **Matthew 6:2-4**
 - So, five foot long check for little money and a photo op?
 - Praying: **Matthew 6:5-6**
 - Can you still do this if you are praying in a group setting?
 - Your prayers go before the throne of grace. **Hebrews 4:16**
 - Still on praying: **Matthew 6:7-8**
 - No babbling. Why not? Why would Jesus discourage repetitive prayer?
 - The Lord's Prayer: **Matthew 6:9-15**
 - Break this prayer down and apply it to your life today. How would you pray this prayer?
 - Fasting: **Matthew 6:16-18**
 - Same deal: do this before God not before men.
- Lots of reward talk, don't you think? That is reinforced again: **Matthew 6:19-21**
 - Does God want you to store up treasures for yourself? YES!! But He wants them to be true riches, treasures in heaven.
 - Money is fine: good servant but horrible master. **1 Timothy 6:17-19**
- Interesting turn: **Matthew 6:22-23**
 - If your eyes are bad how do you see giving? Prayer? Fasting?
 - If your eyes are good how do you see these things?
 - What other spiritual disciplines are affected by our "eyes?"
- Last section: **Acts 10:1-5**
 - Cornelius stored up treasures in heaven. When did he get to make a withdrawal?
 - Sometimes we can access our treasures in heaven while still in this life. Other times we receive in the next.
 - The key is to have the right eyes.
 - To see the valuable things of life as valuable.
 - To see insignificant things as insignificant.
 - Let's pray that we may receive eyes that see!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!