

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Abundant Life Skills 1

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.
- There are basic life skills we all need to succeed in life, such as:
 - Living Skills: laundry, cleaning, cooking, hygiene, etc.
 - Money Skills: living within your means, developing an income, etc.
 - Communication Skills: interpersonal and professional, etc. and etc.
- But we are called not just to live life, but to live Abundant Life!
 - Look at some Bible promises: **Proverbs 3:1-2 and John 10:10.**
 - Does just reading those verses bring you those promises?
 - Of course not! Just reading those promises doesn't do us any good unless we develop the "Abundant Life Skills" we need!
 - You don't get Proverbs 3:2 without Proverbs 3:1.
 - You don't get abundant life without following the lead of the good shepherd!
- First, let's deal with the "Christian fear of success."
 - Does anyone feeling uncomfortable with Prov 3:1-2 and John 10:10? Why?
 - Two guesses of Pastor Mike: Seems unattainable, and people feel guilty for wanting that.
 - Can you think of other reasons? Are these good reasons? Why or why not?
 - This may seem unattainable but overcoming is an "Abundant Life Skill!" Read **Romans 12:21.**
 - Do you ever feel the pressure of the expectation of being unbroken?
 - What's the right way for a church to handle that?
 - I feel guilty for wanting that.
 - Common Misconception: People see following Jesus as the way to heaven...but also as the way to a miserable life in this world.
 - That is simply not true. Either that mentality is...
 - A distortion of the "Deny Yourself Abundant Life Skill." Or
 - The result of living life as a Christian who doesn't follow Christ. That is frustrating and miserable.
- Let's go to John 10 to being our search for Abundant Life Skills!
 - **Read John 9:39-10:18.** Look for context and Abundant Life Skills.
 - We see in context that Jesus is dealing with false religion.
 - Abundant Life Skill: Hearing Jesus' voice in a crowd of religion.
 - Verse 10 applies to the Devil, but the context is false religion!
 - Note: You can tell a good shepherd by the condition of the sheep!!
 - So, what is the predominant Abundant Life Skill from these verses?
 - Abundant Life Skill: To Hear and Follow Jesus...we call that "faith."
 - It's not enough to hear only. Hear and follow. **Romans 2:13**
 - This wasn't the end of the episode in John 10. The Bible records the reactions of people to what Jesus said: **John 10:19-21.**
 - Some did not hear the Good Shepherd's voice...but some did.
 - You are in that place right now. You can hear and follow...or you can refuse. Choose the way of abundant life!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!