

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on IF Part 3

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.
- **IF: Conditional Promises of God.**
- Important Qualification:
 - Just because I'm saying there are conditional promises from God doesn't mean that I'm saying God changes or is moody. **James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8**
 - However we must understand these two things:
 - God does respond differently to you (us) depending on what you do.
 - You have the essential role of taking hold of God's promises!
- This week: The first IF, Cain's Crossroads.
 - **Genesis 4:3-8**
 - So, Cain had some decision to make. This is a cross roads moment.
 - Discuss the two "ifs" in v7.
 - Do these two ifs apply to us today?
 - God puts this on Cain. It is his choice. His responsibility. What do you think of that?
 - He either does what is right or he doesn't.
 - New Testament **Romans 6:16**. Same thing for us.
 - I wonder what messed it up for Cain. Two possibilities I see:
 - He didn't believe he would be accepted. (Lie) Been there?
 - He didn't believe he could succeed. (Lie) Been there?
 - Or maybe he was just evil. (I doubt that, but I have a kind heart. ☺)
 - If he couldn't see the way out even though it was there, then that is a faith problem.
 - Have you been there? I think we all have been!! Are you there now?
- So, let's look at another "if" that could have helped Cain and can help us.
- **Matthew 21:21-22.**
 - Wow. Increase our faith!!
 - Let's just go with it for a while, then we'll look deeper.
 - So, believing is the key to receiving answered prayer.
 - In some ways this is easy to understand, such as: If I believe that the cupcake doesn't have a tractor beam on my stomach, but that I can tell it no, then I can!
 - Same with: Making friends, Jamaican water tank, the build addition, planting churches, get wisdom from God, peace from God...etc.
 - How about physical healing, receiving the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts, etc?
 - How about the ability to fly, go invisible, etc?
 - Going deeper let's look at the word "receive" from Matthew 21:22.
 - There are passive Greek words for "receive."
 - There are very aggressive Greek words for "receive." (seize)
 - This word is in the middle. It sometimes is translated "take."
 - So, it basically that if you believe, with God's help, you will be able to go get what you ask for.
 - **Matthew 10:38** "take up" is the same Greek word from before "receive."
 - The same word is translated "took" and "take" in **Matthew 26:26-28**.
 - Jesus offers, we take.
 - It isn't all up to us. Jesus has paid the price.
 - But we have to take it.
 - If you could believe and receive anything right now, what would it be?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!