

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on IF Part 5

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 Power of Faith.
 - What was Jesus saying with that whole "moving mountains" thing? **Matthew 21:21-22**
 - Discuss the following sentence: "There are things that you think are impossible that are possible for you if you have faith."
- Survey some more "faith moves mountains" type scriptures:
 - Context of demon that wouldn't come out: **Matthew 17:19-20.**
 - Devine healing: **Matthew 9:28-30.**
 - Woman crying in Jesus presence washing his feet: **Luke 7:48-50.**
 - Great Commission in Mark: **Mark 16:17-18.**
 - Jesus talking about who he is: **John 14:11-12.**
 - Withered fig tree again: **Mark 11:22-24.**
 - This is no side concept. It is central to the New Testament.
 - It is true. There are things that you think are impossible that are possible for you if you have faith. This reads easy but doesn't play out that way!!!
- Understanding Faith.
 - Faith is in something and for something.
 - Have to get both of those right for faith to work.
 - Ever put your faith in the wrong person, wrong idea, or wrong thing?
 - Ever put your faith in God but for the wrong thing??
 - For example, selfish desires. **James 4:2-3.**
 - Faith is a fight, not a magical easy button. **1 Timothy 6:12.**
 - I love quick miracles. Often though results come from perseverance.
 - Faith can work in reverse too.
 - Sometimes we believe for and receive bad things! Discuss the following:
 - Negative talk undermines faith.
 - Fear can be a manifestation of faith in the obstacle.
 - Counterfeit Faith. Discuss the following:
 - Really really wanting God to do something for you isn't faith.
 - Faith isn't something we conjure up on our hearts and then offer to God.
 - You can't pretend to have faith. Check and see where you faith is.
 - Trusting that God will keep his promises is faith!
 - So, what are God's promises? Here are a few: Financial help - **Matthew 6:33**, Promise of the Holy Spirit - **Luke 11:13**, Peace in your heart - **Philippians 4:6-7**, Physical healing - **James 5:14-15.**
- Notice how all of those promises involve action on our part?
 - The initial physical evidence of faith is obedience.
 - Jesus says something remarkable in **John 14:15**. How does that apply to this topic?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!