

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Tasked 8

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.
- Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to follow Christ!
- This week: Fight the Good Fight.
 - That phraseology comes from the Apostle Paul in his letters to Timothy and the church at Corinth. **1 Timothy 1:18-19.** (Shipwrecked faith?!?!?)
 - Jesus says it this way: **Mark 8:34-35.**
 - That's pretty strong. Was Jesus lying? What did Jesus mean do you think?
- So, what is this "fight?" How do we "take up our cross?"
 - During the sermon Pastor Mike said, "I became a Christian because God is real and His Kingdom is worth fighting for."
 - What do you think of that statement?
 - Simply, we fight to advance the Kingdom of God. Here are two ways:
 - 1: In me. Remember **John 3:6.**
 - 2: And out there. Great Commission.
- Have you ever fought the wrong fight? Share some personal examples. Here are some others:
 - Terrorists are doing that.
 - Paul fought the wrong fight (with the right intentions) before he met Jesus.
 - If you watch the Vikings/Packers game, I hope you enjoy it...but...
 - Striving for money or status.
- Discuss these three worthy battles that we all must fight in this life:
 - The internal battle against our own sin and ignorance.
 - Primary weapons:
 - Repentance. **1 John 1:9**
 - Being Spirit Led not flesh led. **Romans 8:5-9**
 - The defensive battle against the curse and oppression.
 - Primary weapons:
 - Resistance! **1 Peter 5:8-9**
 - Faith. **James 5:13-15**
 - The offensive battle against the Kingdom of Darkness.
 - Primary weapons:
 - Be the church. **Matthew 16:18**
 - Authority from God for your calling. **Matthew 10:1**
 - Whatever gift, power from God.
- Paul bookends 1 Timothy with "fight the good fight." Let's look at some of the last chapter:
 - Paul describes some bad fights: false doctrine and greed. **1 Timothy 6:3-10.**
 - Then he describes the good fight: **1 Timothy 6:11-14.**
 - Character traits necessary for this fight: **1 Timothy 6:11.** Warrior qualities?
 - Take hold. **1 Timothy 6:12.**
 - Eternal life, abundant life, purposeful life is there for the taking...but you have to take it!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!