

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Tasked 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.
- Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to follow Christ!
 - Did you know you are on a mission from God?
- Key verse: **John 15:16.**
 - Discuss what it means to be chosen and to be appointed.
- This week: The key to unlocking the power of God in your life. Faith.
 - Check out **John 6:28-29**. What is the "work" of God?
 - Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to live by faith.
 - What does that mean? Discuss the following things that it doesn't mean:
 - Not: don't plan or work a job, just let it all go man!
 - Not: I just have to pray the sinner's prayer and then I go to Heaven, right?
 - Not: manipulate God by your personal expectations.
 - Not even "I acknowledge your existence."
 - Have you ever said "I believe in you" to someone? Who?
 - Faith is saying "I believe in you" (like that) to Jesus.
 - People have been confused about this since the early days: **James 2:19-20**. (Substitute in "faithfulness" for "works," does that make more sense?)
 - Faith is also saying "I believe in you first a foremost" to Jesus.
 - Can't serve God and money. But money is good for some stuff, right!
 - What else can we have faith in? Education, Skills, Political System, Friends, etc.
- Definition of faith from **Hebrews 11:6.**
 - Faith produces an expectancy. Lack of expectancy indicates lack of faith.
 - Side note: did Jesus put up with people who lacked faith? Yes, but he helped them to build their faith over time!
 - Ex of expectancy: **Acts 14:8-10.**
 - Sometimes you just know it will work. Has that ever happened to you?
 - What if you don't know it will work? Danger is "pretend" faith.
 - I hear people talking about "trying" Jesus. Like **Acts 19:13-16.**
 - Eventually they had an embarrassing problem! That's not faith. Don't "try" Jesus, believe in Jesus!
 - **Hebrews 4:2** is very interesting along those lines.
 - Compare **James 4:7**. (What did the seven sons of Sceva miss?)
- Read some Scriptures with eyes of faith: (also, compare to eyes of unbelief, obligation, etc.)
 - Again **James 4:7** (unless you are done with that one)
 - **John 14:6.**
 - **Matthew 3:11**
 - **Matthew 7:7**
 - **James 5:14-16**
 - **Romans 15:7**
 - **Romans 6:18**
 - Finish with **John 8:31-32.**
 - Notice the progression: v31 faith to faithfulness, v32 knowledge to power.
 - Today start or renew your journey of faith. Follow it all the way to freedom!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!