

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on IF Part 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.
- **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!
- First, let's look at a major Old Testament promise: Land for Israel!
 - Jacob had a dream: **Genesis 28:10-15.**
 - That is a great promise!
 - Various things happened, and Jacob died in Egypt.
 - Over 400 years passed and Jacob's house had become a huge slave nation in Egypt.
 - God heard their cries and the promise was reborn! **Exodus 6:5-8!**
 - Notice v8. I would take that to mean that they are going to the promise land!! Did that happen?
 - They scouted it out: **Numbers 13:1-2.**
 - Very good land. Very big giants. Ever been there? **Numbers 13:26-29.**
 - This may be how you felt last week? (i.e. "Nice promise! Too bad I can't have it!!!)
 - Caleb is a man of faith!! **Numbers 13:30.**
 - But most people don't have faith. **Numbers 13:31-33.**
 - I wonder how the people took this mixed report? **Numbers 14:1-4**
 - Public opinion is not going favorably. But Caleb will give a rousing speech!! **Numbers 14:5-9**
 - Nice speech! What would you have done? What will they do?
 - **Numbers 14:10**
 - Super. I wonder what God thinks of all of that?
 - **Numbers 14:11-12**
 - Moses talked God out of that one, but here was the final verdict: **Numbers 14:20-25.**
 - They all died in the desert except Joshua and Caleb and those under 20 years of age. They entered the land 40 years later.
 - Think of what they missed out on because of their lack of faith.
 - The promise was there but it was conditional! It wasn't even stated that way but we know it was because they did not receive the promise!
 - God's plan was going to happen, but who got to be part of it was the question.
- What did the Israelites lack? Two things.
 - Faith. They didn't believe that God would stand by His promise.
 - Fight. They weren't willing to fight a very scary war!
 - Primarily because they thought that they would lose! See how lack of faith can take the fight out of someone?
- We are not promised land. Let's look at a major New Testament promise: Salvation.
 - **Romans 10:5-13.** (Emphasis Romans 10:9)
 - This is a conditional promise. God's love is unconditional. That means that the offer still stands.
 - However, this if says what? Let's do that.
 - Next week: Saved from what?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!