

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on IF Part 6

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.**
- This week: Hey it's Resurrection Sunday!!!
 - Many wonderful themes will be shared in thousands upon thousands of churches.
 - Today, here, we are going to talk about the fact that Jesus didn't just demonstrate God's power over death; Jesus also shares God's power over death!
 - Said a different way: You can get in on that action!! Two ways:
 - Everlasting life in heaven!
 - Also we can have a new life today as well! Be born again!!
- Continuing on our "IF" theme. Our "if" today begins with "If anyone would come after me..."
 - !!!We have the opportunity to come after him!!!
 - We can get in on that resurrection power! How?
- Let's read: **Matthew 16:21-28.**
 - V21-23 Jesus describes the events of Holy Week. Peter doesn't like it!!
 - V24 This was so much fun until this verse!! What does Jesus mean by this?
 - Don't see this too shallow. There is something wonderful here.
 - V25 This is the exchange. Give Jesus your life and let him resurrect it!
 - What does Jesus mean by this? How do you do that?
 - V26 Do this and you will find out who you really are!
 - V27 This is very end times.
 - V28 This is very today!
- Ok, but how does this work?
 - Do I have to quit my job and move to Africa? Probably not...
 - God needs doctors, business owners, teachers, factory workers, stay at home moms, students, etc. who carry something around in their heart everywhere they go.
- Let's look at a famous example of someone who laid his life down to follow Jesus, The Apostle Paul. **Philippians 3:1-14.**
 - Paul gave up his religious life to follow Christ! That's a little odd.
 - Paul lost everything. Did he gain anything?
 - He wrote 13 of the books of the New Testament!
 - How important would he have been if he kept what he had?
 - Emphasis v10-12. What are some important themes of these three verses?
- What is God's plan for your life?
 - Is it for you to be depressed, purposeless, beaten down, or lost? NO!! Then what?
- How do you get there? How do you get to live out God's plan?
 - Give your life to Christ.
 - Not our afterlife, your current life! He gives you your afterlife.
 - Faith says "Following Christ will be my best life possible!!"
 - Then take hold!! Fight for it!! That is a battle but you keep at it!!
 - This is living a life worth living! Doing things worth doing!!
- When will you get there?
 - How about today?
 - Which step do you need to take?
 - Do you need to give your current life to Christ? Now is your time.
 - Do you need to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of you? Fight for it!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!