

Small Group/Sermon Notes for The Greatest Sermon Ever: Part 7

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.
- **Part 6: Ask, Seek, Knock.**
- **Matthew 7:7-11.**
 - What does this say about God's character? (bread vs stone etc)
 - God is good....all the time....so why aren't the prayer meetings the biggest events the church has? Something isn't working right.
 - So, God is good and He gives good gifts, but sometimes it doesn't work how we want. Let's work through this today.
- Discuss these examples of hindrances to receiving from God:
 - Lack of faith. **James 1:5-8.**
 - Selfishness. **James 4:1-3.**
 - Bad relationships. **1 Peter 3:7.**
 - Is this one a surprise to anyone? This is tied to Unforgiveness.
- There are really 3 "ask, seek, knock" type situations in our lives.
 - Preliminary concept: God has a master plan for history and for you.
- The three situations:
 - 1: When we ask for something contrary to God's plan.
 - Examples:
 - Paul's thorn. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10.**
 - James and John's request. **Matthew 20:20-23.**
 - Jesus at the Gethsemane. **Matthew 26:36-42.**
 - These are some pillars of the faith (Jesus!) that got a "no" from God.
 - Some things are obviously not part of God's plan!
 - 2: When we fail to ask for something that is in God's plan.
 - Examples:
 - **James 4:2** again.
 - **Matthew 9:35-38.** Workers in the field.
 - This is often assumed in the Scriptures, that we need to ask.
 - For example, **Matthew 7:8.** What happens for those who do not ask, seek, and knock? Nothing!
 - Also, **Matthew 6:8.** God waits for us to ask!!!!
 - 3: When we ask for things that are in God's plan.
 - Examples:
 - **1 John 5:13-15.** Asking according to His will.
 - **Mark 11:22-25.** Move the mountain. (Assumed in His will.)
 - **John 14:12-14.** Ask "in Jesus name." What does that mean?
 - **John 15:7.** Ask whatever you wish? (But remain in Him!)
- So the key is to get to know God's plan and pray for/believe for that!!
- **Psalms 37:3-4.**
 - The key is to delight yourself in the Lord!
 - If you aren't delighting in the Lord, it's just because you don't know Him very well!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!