

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 23, 2008

Passage: Luke 17:11-19

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:7

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:11-12.** Where is Samaria in relation to Galilee and Jerusalem? (Check the back of your Bible for a map)
- (b) Read John 4:1-26. What did Jews think of Samaritans? The Samaritans worshipped on a mountain called Mount Gerizim, where did the Jews worship (2 Chronicles 6:6)? What would be a modern day comparison of Jews and Samaritans?
- (c) When was Jesus met with the lepers? Why were the lepers on the outskirts of the city (Number 5:2-3)? What do you think that this meant for their economic situation?
- (d) According to Old Testament law what were lepers required to do (Leviticus 13:45-46)? What would this have meant for their relationships with their family? Friends? Anyone? In what state of health do you think they would have been? In what state of cleanliness?
- (e) Have you ever been in a similar position as the lepers? How so? Have you ever ostracized someone? How are we to treat people who have been placed outside the norms of society (Luke 14:13; Galatians 2:10; James 2:5-6)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 17:11-12. Talk about the state of the lepers. Do you know of anyone that might need help around you? Pray for that person and think of some ways that you could help them out?

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:13-14.** What did the lepers call Jesus? Who else called Jesus this (Luke 5:5; 8:24, 45; 9:49)? What do you think is significant about them calling Jesus this?
- (b) Read Mark 1:40-44. How did the leper come to Jesus? What did this kind of action convey? How did Jesus reward this attitude? What did he ask the leper to do after he was healed?
- (c) Compare the Luke passage with Mark 1:40-44. What does Jesus do differently in the Luke passage? When are the lepers healed? What did this require of the lepers? Why do you think that Jesus did not heal these lepers right away?
- (d) How is the manner with which Jesus healed the lepers similar to our Christian walk (James 2:14-17)? Read Hebrews 11:1. How did the lepers practice this? When have you ever had to take a step of faith? What did that look like? What does following Christ in faith normally mean (Romans 12:1)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:13-14. Talk about what it means to walk by faith and not by sight. What was it that the lepers had to do when Jesus told them to go to the temple? What did they say that showed their readiness to obey before even being asked? How might God be calling your family to take a step of faith together? Pray together about family concerns and ask the Lord how you might walk by faith and not by sight.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:15-16.** How many of the lepers were healed? Even though they showed faith in the word's of Jesus, why do you think the other nine did not turn back?
- (b) What was this one person's response when he realized he was healed? What was this person's religion/nationality?
- (c) As we saw above, the Samaritans did not worship in the same way the Jews did. Remembering this, what significance does this place on the fact that he willing started to head for Jerusalem with the others? What would the Samaritan be giving up by going to the temple in Jerusalem to be verified as clean? What does this say about his faith versus the others?
- (d) Read Luke 7:37-50. Compare these two stories. What are the similarities between the woman and the Samaritan? Why do you think that the Samaritan was so much more thankful than the other lepers? What does this show us about a heart that is truly humble?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:14-16. Discuss the faith of the Samaritan in light of what Jesus asked of him. What about his willingness to go the priest in Jerusalem showed that the Samaritan was sacrificing more than the others? What does this passage teach us about a truly thankful heart? What is the Samaritan recognizing when he comes back to Jesus? What is an area of your life where you need to recognize God's work in your life? Are you grateful for the blessings of God? Pray that the Lord would give you a humble and grateful heart like the Samaritan leper.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 17:17-18.** Does Jesus sound surprised in this passage? Who was Jesus talking to in this passage?
- (b) What are the answers to Jesus' questions? Do you think that the other nine praised God for what happened? What is significant about the Samaritan's return to Jesus?
- (c) Is Jesus' last question condemning? Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Ungratefulness is mentioned. Why do you think that it is listed among the signs of the last days?
- (d) How do you look at ungratefulness? Is there anything that you find yourself ungrateful about? Read Philippians 4:6-7. Why is it so necessary for us to be thankful in everything that we do? Why should we be thankful in all our circumstances?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:17-18 and Philippians 4:6-7. Talk about why a gracious attitude is important to have. Why is it hard to be grateful sometimes? How do our own preferences and expectations cause us to have an attitude of ungratefulness? Pray that the Lord would give you eyes to see the world through grateful eyes.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 17:19.** Jesus tells the Samaritan his faith has made him well. Is Jesus talking about his health? Why not?
- (b) Read Luke 5:20; 7:50; 18:40-42. How does Jesus talk about faith? Is faith essential for salvation? What is faith (Hebrew 11:1; Romans 4:1-5; John 15:4; 20:29)? What are some things that we often place our faith in?
- (c) Can a person ever live without placing their faith in something? What does the atheist place their faith in? What does the Muslim? Buddhist? Mormon? Most people don't actively practice a religion, what are they placing their faith in? Take a minute and reflect over your week. What have you been placing your faith in?
- (d) What does it mean to "walk by faith not by sight" (2Corinthians 5:7)? Do we always see clearly the outcome? What does walking by faith require of us? What part of walking by faith is the hardest for you?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:19. Talk about what it meant for you to place faith in Christ. Discuss what it means for you on a daily basis to "walk by faith" (2Corinthians 5:7). What are you placing your faith in? Do you need to place your faith in Christ? Pray together as a family that your faith would be in Christ alone and that he would be your true treasure.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 17:11-19. What about this story stands out to you the most? Is it the fact that the Samaritan was willing to go to the temple prior to being healed? Is it the fact that only the Samaritan returned? What does this story teach us about a grateful heart? Is your heart grateful for what Christ has done in your life?

DATE: November 23, 2008

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Thanksgiving in the Kingdom

"Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner"