

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 29, 2012

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: Hebrews 10:24-25

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Gal. 5:1-26.** This week we will examine what the Scriptures teach concerning how we should speak to one another. Our focus in Gal. 5 will be vs. 13-16 & 26, but you will need to read the entire chapter to gain a proper view of these verses' context. What is the issue at hand in Gal. 5:1-12? To what "freedom" are the Galatian believers called (v. 13)? How would they use their "freedom as an opportunity for the flesh" and why would that be bad?

(b) We will look more in depth at the command to "serve one another" (v. 13) next week, but for now, what is the connection between serving and loving? How does what you learned last week about loving one another inform your answer? What does the word "but" that begins v. 15 tell us? What do these terms "bite," "devour, and "consume" mean and to what do they refer?

(c) How do believers sometimes bite and devour one another? According to the context, what is lacking when this happens? Describe a time in your life where you were (a) the recipient of biting & devouring, and (b) the bitter & devourer. How could these things have been avoided? What caused them in the first place? As you look back on these incidents, what were some of the warning signs that might have tipped you off that you were heading into this kind of speech, and what could you have done to head off the biting and devouring? Will you look for these warning signs in the future to try to avoid this destruction?

(d) *Family:* **Read Gal. 5:13-15.** As a review of last week's lesson on love, ask questions concerning the law being fulfilled by loving others. Then ask, "According to v. 15, what does the opposite of loving each other look like?" (biting, devouring, consuming each other). Ask, "Of what does this kind of language remind you?" (animals attacking each other), and "Is Paul saying that people really bite each other?" (No, it is a figure of speech referring to our language and attitude toward each other.). Now lead in a discussion of the kinds of words and situations that would be described as biting and devouring and how this leads to consuming each other. Apply it first to your family's relationships and then to the church's relationships.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 15:10-14, Col. 3:16, & Heb. 3:13.** "Instruct" in Rom. 15:14 (ESV) translates the Greek word *noutheteo*, which means, "to instruct, admonish, warn, counsel." This verb also occurs in Col. 3:16 ("admonishing" in ESV). Why is Paul convinced that the Roman believers are able to "instruct one another?" How does one become "full of goodness" and "filled with all knowledge," and why is this essential to instructing one another?

(b) According to Col. 3:16, how are we to teach & admonish one another? To what does "the word of Christ" refer? How does the phrase "in all wisdom" affect the application of this command?

(c) What does Col. 3:16 say about your role in corporate worship? How can you better prepare yourself to give and receive this type of teaching & admonishing on Sunday mornings? Is your active participation in corporate worship consistently marked with "thankfulness in your heart to God?" If not, how can you be more prepared to worship with thankfulness to God?

(d) In what other ways should believers in the body be instructing, teaching, and admonishing one another? Be specific, thinking of all the ways instruction and admonishment from the Scriptures is beneficial to believers and how it could be accomplished. How do these different practices both necessitate and deepen our intimacy through the Holy Spirit?

(e) *Family:* Choose a hymn that you would like to learn with your family, make sure you know the melody, and print out copies of all the verses. If you don't have the confidence to sing without music, find a recording online with which to sing along. **Read Col. 3:16** and teach this verse to your family. Then pass out the hymn and discuss the truths/doctrine found in the words and explain how singing this hymn in corporate & family worship teaches and admonishes each other in solid doctrine. Also discuss the importance of choosing hymns with sound doctrine so we are teaching each other truth instead of error.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 14:1-23.** Our focus today will be vs. 10-13, but we must make sure we have these verses in context. What is the main focus of vs. 1-6, and what two practices are in view? What is the governing principle found in vs. 7-9, and how does this principle guide the decisions the Romans should be making with regard to these practices that are mentioned?

(b) How does v. 10 connect with v. 3? Who would be the stronger and weaker brothers in each practice? Why is it that we should not despise or pass judgment on our brothers & sisters (v. 11)? What are we to do rather than passing judgment (v. 13)?

(c) Summarize vs. 14-23 by writing out several principles that should govern how and why we "seek never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother (or sister)." How is avoiding being a stumbling block the opposite of judging ("but rather" in v. 13)?

- (d) Write down several other practices, other than food and Sabbath days, which can cause division if we do not obey the command to “not pass judgment on one another” or “despise one another” (see v 10). How do we continue “walking in love” (v. 15) in light of disagreements on the application of Scripture in these areas? What will our church look like if we *do* judge?
- (e) *Family*: Walk your family through (a), (b), (c), and (d) above, making application both to your family and the church.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11.** What “one another” is contained in both 1 Thess. 4:18 & 5:11? According to 4:18, how is Paul asking the Thessalonians to encourage one another? Why would they need encouragement in this way?
- (b) With what event is Paul dealing in 1 Thess. 5:1-11? Is it the same event as in 4:13-17? How does the text inform & support your answer? Write down all of the truths found in 4:13-5:11 concerning Christ’s second coming that should be encouraging for believers, and reasons why they should be encouraging.
- (c) In what ways can/should believers here at BCC encourage one another with the promise of Christ’s return? When was the last time someone from BCC encouraged you in this way? When was the last time you encouraged someone else with any aspect of this truth? How would the truth of Christ’s return encourage someone who needed encouragement because they doubt God’s goodness or provision? Someone who is stressed? Angry? Fearful? Facing death or the death of a loved one? Etc.
- (d) *Family*: **Read 1 Thess. 4:13-17.** Draw your family’s attention to v. 13 to show that Paul’s intent was to encourage the Thessalonian believers and for them to have truths (“these words”) with which to encourage other believers. Then explain that these verses refer to Jesus’ second coming, and explain the order of events that are pictured. Also explain that there were some people in Thessalonica who were concerned that loved ones who had recently died might miss Jesus’ return, and this is why Paul explains this order of events. Then have your family search the passage and find everything that is encouraging about Jesus’ 2nd coming and why it is encouraging. You may need to help them understand why each of these events should encourage. As each one is mentioned write it on your white board.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 10:24-25.** What 2 “one anothers” are found in Heb. 10:24-25? This is the 3rd “let us” command found in vs. 22-24. On what basis is the writer of Hebrews basing these commands (vs. 19-20)? How do the truths found in vs. 19-20 facilitate the commands in vs. 24-25?
- (b) What are the “good works” and “love” to which we should be stirring one another up? How does “not neglecting to meet together” help us accomplish the “stirring up” and “encouraging” commanded here? To what “Day” is Paul referring, and how does this connect these commands to encourage with the commands we studied yesterday?
- (c) Can you think of other passages of Scripture in which encouragement is modeled? You will benefit from doing a word study on the words encourage, encouraged, and encouraging! In what specific ways can you become a better encourager? What kinds of speech would this entail? How does last week’s study on loving one another impact our becoming better encouragers? Be ready to share in Sunday school times in which you have been encouraged. Be specific about your own situation and why you needed encouragement, and exactly how the person gave you that encouragement. This will encourage your class and possibly give them new tools to place in their own arsenal of encouragement.
- (d) **Read Heb. 10:24-25** and spend today brainstorming all of the ways you, both individually and as a family, can “stir one another up to love and good works” and “encourage one another all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Record these ideas and refer to them in the coming days to remind everyone of all the ways to be better encouragers.

DATE: July 29, 2012

PASSAGE: Various

Speaking to One Another

The Scripture addresses how we speak to one another by revealing 2 categories of speech, one to be avoided and one to be pursued.