



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6

August 28th & 29th, 2010

Small Group Warm-Up

Describe one thing you have built or created with your own hands.

Opening Prayer

Father God, thank you for making each one of us unique. Help us to be who we are and to make our own special contribution to this world.

Discussion Questions:

"A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense." Proverbs 24:3 (NLT)

This weekend Pastor James reminded us that we are all building a life through our daily habits, choices and activities. The first step in building a great life is to allow God to permeate our hearts and shape our lives.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:4-7

In this passage Moses reminded the people of Israel that before they could guide their children into following God's commands, they must first allow God to permeate their own hearts and mold their lives according to his instructions. The same is true for you and I. This is not about being perfect, but about being pliable. In order to pass on an authentic faith, we need to be able to admit when we're wrong, face our own weaknesses, deal with problems, fight for healthy relationships, and bring God into our everyday lives.

- Are you currently wrestling with one of the 5 areas underlined above? If yes, describe your struggle and try to identify your next right step. Invite God to change your heart.

Matthew 22:36-40 talks about 3 important relationships that need to grow strong and healthy:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

This passage reminds us that we are to:

1. Pursue a relationship with **God** by living a life of worship, faith, love, courage and generosity.
 2. Love **others** the way God does by extending grace, hope, justice, and assistance to those around us.
 3. See **yourself** the way God does by embracing forgiveness and rejecting thoughts of guilt and insecurity.
- Which of these 3 relationships is strongest in your life? Which needs extra thought and attention this week?

Read the final words of Jesus from **Matthew 28:18-20**.

Pastor James taught us that the mission of the family is not primarily to **protect** our children, but to **prepare** them to demonstrate God's love to a broken world.

- What are the differences between these two approaches to parenting?
- What is one way you could help prepare a young person to demonstrate God's love to a broken world?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I invite you into the broken places of my life. Heal me. Help me. Change me. I want to experience your healing power in my life and to share your love with a hurting world.