



# EastLake Church

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
September 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## **Small Group Warm-Up**

Have you ever been on a blind date? If so, did it end well?

## **Opening Prayer**

God, thank you for making your intentions clear: you love us and want to bless us!

## **Discussion Questions:**

### **Read Genesis 12:1-3**

This weekend Pastor Mike reminded us that we can have confidence in God's good intentions for our lives. In this passage from Genesis, God is calling Abram away from the worship of idols and into a relationship with himself. At the time of Abram, idol worship was about finding ways to appease the fickle, unpredictable, often angry gods of nature. In contrast, Almighty God called Abram into a relationship based on his love and blessings.

- Why do you think we sometimes struggle to believe that God has good intentions for our lives?

When the Bible uses the word "blessing" it is talking about us being on the receiving end of the favor of God.

Knowing we are in God's favor means knowing we have received his approval.

- Did you grow up in a home where the emotional climate was stable or unstable?
- Did you feel you had the love approval of your parents, or did you constantly struggle to earn it?

### **Read Galatians 3:29**

Pastor Mike reminded us that being "in the zone" of God's blessing is not a geographical location, but an attitude of the heart. We become heirs/recipients of God's tangible and intangible blessings when we open our hearts to Christ.

- Name some of the tangible and intangible blessings God has given you.

### **Read Psalm 56:8** (In several different versions, if possible)

*"You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, every tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book."* Psalm 56:8 The Message

Pastor Mike reminded us that God is not neutral about the pain in our lives. He is not only aware, but he cares and wants to help us in our struggles.

- Is there anything that has recently been keeping you awake at night? If you are comfortable, share it and allow others to pray for you.

### **Read Proverbs 3:9-10** (In The Message version, if possible)

Pastor Mike reminded us that God is really the owner of everything, but he has allowed us to be the managers of our own lives. When we choose to recognize God as the owner, and honor him by putting him first in our finances, our career, our relationships, we are "in the zone" to receive his blessings.

**For personal reflection:** Is there an area of your life that is not honoring God and is removing you from being "in the zone" to receive his blessing? What changes do you need to make? Write down one action step you will take this week to honor God in your finances, your career, your relationships. If you are comfortable, share this with one other person.

## **Closing Prayer**

Have a volunteer read Romans 8:31-32 aloud. God, thank you for sending your one and only Son to die in our place so that we can be forgiven of our sins and recipients of your many blessings. Help us to honor you this week.