



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 2

November 27th & 28th, 2010

Small Group Warm-up

Have you ever lost a set of keys or something you desperately needed and found them eventually? How did you react when you lost this item? How did you react when you found them?

Opening Prayer

Lord, our lives can sometimes seem very dark. Life can be difficult at times due to losses we've experienced. Please show us more of you and be the light in our lives- right here, right now. Amen.

This weekend's message story

Pastor Dave Nelson (our good friend and guest speaker) shared a loss he had experienced in his life in 2008. The loss of his brother, who was killed in Iraq by a roadside-bomb, had put him through a very difficult time. As Dave shared it, this dark part of his life led him to a place of grace and light. Go online to hear the complete message.

Discussion Questions

In John 16:33 (NIV) it says, "In this world you will have trouble..." Dave taught us that everybody has a story of loss.

- Have you ever experienced a loss? Please share.

Dave also mentioned that "loss cannot be compared to loss." **Read Job 10:1-3.**

- Life is a rollercoaster full of ups and downs. It is difficult, especially when we experience loss. How do you react when you go through a difficult time in your life?

Many of us have reacted like Job when our lives feel out of control. But our lack of control is not an indication of God's lack of control. **Read the following passages: Job 38:2-21; John 16:33 and Romans 11:36.**

- In times of difficulty, we often forget how "big" God is. It's easy for us to forget the amazing things He's done in our lives. When we feel tired and weary it is comforting to remember God's greatness. While some of us sit in quiet, pray, worship Him through song, write, etc - how do you engage with God in hard times?

Another learning Dave had in the difficult time he experienced is that "God's grace is a reflection of His activity in our life." **Read 2 Corinthians 12:9.** As God's grace is sufficient for you and me we have a choice to respond differently to the loss we experience. **Read Ruth 1:20-21 and 2 Samuel 12:19-20.** These two scriptures reference two different ways we can react to difficult times in our lives; we can either be bitter or worship God.

- How will you choose to live today in response to anything difficult you may be going through?
- Write this down on a piece of paper where you can be reminded of the decision you've made today.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank you for being a big God. You are a God of control, mercy, love and grace. Continue to help us get through the difficult and dark times of life. Would we worship you in the good times and the bad. We love you. Amen.

