



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6, Selfishness

June 12th & 13th, 2010

Small Group Warm-Up

This weekend Pastor Robert reminded us of the many ways God has blessed us: with life, with provision for our needs, with salvation. Share one specific way God has blessed you.

Opening Prayer

Father God, thank you that you are 100% goodness and love. You are the source of every blessing in our lives. We want to take a moment right now to thank you for the specific ways you have blessed us, which we have just shared.

Discussion Questions

This weekend we were reminded that God has blessed us for a purpose: so that we can be a blessing to others. Problems arise when the bully of selfishness convinces us to hoard our blessings for ourselves. Although that can provide some measure of happiness in the beginning, it bites in the end, when we become a stagnant cesspool of self-indulgence.

1. Read Genesis 12:1-9

In this passage, God invited Abram to begin a pilgrimage of faith: God said, "...go to the land I will show you." Remember that Abram lived in a time when people were calling on all sorts of gods: the god of the sun, of the rain, of the land, and on and on. But this is a call from God Almighty, who reveals right away that he is a God of blessing.

- List the specific promises of blessing God gives Abram in verses 2 & 3.
- In verse 3, God says, "*all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*" How have you been blessed through the example of Abram's life? (Abram's faith, his obedience, etc.)
- I love how verse 4 sounds so simple: "So Abram left." But we all know that this must have been a huge undertaking. What kinds of challenges do you think Abram faced in leaving?
- In verse 7, God appears to Abram and promises to give his descendants a home in the land of Canaan. Abram's response was to build an altar to the Lord, a symbol of faith and worship. Has God given you a promise that is still in your future? Are you thanking Him now, by faith?
- What is one of the biggest steps of faith you have ever taken?
- In times of stress, challenge, and uncertainty it's easy to focus on the negative. It is times like these when we need to remember that God has blessed us, that he wants to bless us, and that he wants us to be a blessing to others. No matter how much or how little we have, we can be a blessing to others. How can you bless someone in your life this week?

2. Read Genesis 15:1

This verse reminds us that the very best part of God's blessing is that we have been invited into a relationship with Him. It is not based on something that happened in the distant past, it is an on-going, dynamic, daily journey of faith. How long has it been since you have set aside an extra portion of time for Bible reading, journaling, prayer and reflection—time dedicated to strengthening your relationship with God? Think about the week ahead and schedule some time with God.

My appointment with God this week will be: When _____ Where _____

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank you for coming to open the door for us to experience a relationship with Almighty God. Forgive us for the mistakes we have made this past week. Help us to walk by faith in the week to come.