

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of October 8, 2017
Rooted and Reaching Week #5

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our focus for this week is "Creating margin is essential if you're going to engage your mission." The discussion and application this week is about the 'what' and 'how' of creating margin in our lives so that we might engage in our mission.

Share it

Do you ever feel like 'my life is overcrowded? What kinds of things fill up the space?

NOTES TO LEADERS: You might want to start the conversation in a more positive way: "What are the high points of your week? What are the priorities that top your list?"

Study the Bible

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 about Paul's desire to be intentional to fulfill His mission in Christ.
What did the apostle Paul say was the source of his commission and skill? (v. 10, see also, 1 Timothy 1:12)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul often refers to the grace of God as the source. Though he suffered much, he always attributed the privilege of serving Christ to His grace.

What was His exhortation, in v.10, to God's other servants?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Each member of God's church has an assignment to build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and His work. Paul exhorts us to "be careful." Here, in 1 Corinthians, this takes aim at the strife he mentions earlier in the chapter. For us, this could also mean to be intentional about following Christ in how we build on His works. (See 1 Corinthians 15:58) *Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

What was Paul's point in v.13 concerning the work done?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul was challenging the readers to examine the "quality" of how we build. The Corinthian people were doing their own thing and even causing strife. For us, this reminds us to examine what we are doing to build on Christ's work.

What is the result of the work done? (14-15; See also 2 Corinthians 5:10)

NOTES TO LEADERS: The end result is the judgment of Christ over what we have done. This means rewards or loss of rewards. The final results of our works should be that we glorify God (see 2 Corinthians 4:15 below).

How does this compare to Peter's word in 1 Peter 4:10? Who is included?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Peter calls us all to use the gifts (of grace) that God has given us. This command is to every believer (because every believer has been given gifts to use).

What is the final result of our works? (2 Corinthians 4:15)

NOTES TO LEADERS: "More people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

Discuss Together

Our key point: "Creating margin is essential if you're going to engage your mission."

Why do we fill up our lives and schedules? What do we want? Why does this happen?

NOTES TO LEADERS: These questions take aim at motive. I don't think we will do well at creating margin if we don't examine our motives for why we do what we do.

For myself, I'm pretty sure that much of my motive has to do with what I think will make me happy or fulfilled or secure. As one famous writer/speaker teaches, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." When I am trying to be "satisfied" by this world, I not only fail at being satisfied (fulfilled), I also fail to glorify God.

How can we get to doing what Jesus says matters most?

- Specifically, what is keeping my life so busy that I can't focus more on my mission?
- We all know that this is hard to discuss, but -- what specifically can you eliminate or cut back? What stuff would you like to take out of your overcrowded life?

NOTES TO LEADERS: These questions get pretty revealing. You will have to judge if you or your group can be this revealing with one another. But I believe God knows the truth and it could be helpful to get real about our busyness.

Who is in your world that you believe God wants you to influence? What helps you pray for the people on your list?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This might be a time to look at your "list" that you started on Sunday.

Apply It This Week

Examine your schedule and consider what would free you to engage your mission?

NOTES TO LEADERS: I hope we can all begin to do this together. This could be huge in our lives.

Praying that the Holy Spirit leads you,

Steve