

Home Group Notes
Week of February 24

NOTES TO LEADERS: This first week is a very brief overview. If your group is full of more mature believers, perhaps focus on how you can help pass on what you have learned to younger believers.

SHARE IT

Is there an experience where you saw observable growth as an athlete? Business? Profession? Student? Parent? Ministry? How did this happen?

NOTES TO LEADERS: In most areas of life, progress is made through a partnership of people, effort by the person, and God-given giftedness. As Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:1-17, we can observe the process of maturing and success by looking at other areas of life.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

What are the early steps of becoming a disciple of Jesus? Read Mark 1:17-18; John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 10:9; 1 John 1:9.

NOTES TO LEADERS: Each of these verses looks at an essential to maturing in discipleship.

Mark: The call is to a person (Jesus) to follow in His footsteps, to become a person who helps others learn of Him and become disciples.

John 1:12: It all begins by receiving and believing in Him and then we become His children.

John 3:16: God loves us and by believing in Jesus, we have eternal life.

Romans 10:9: The means of salvation.

1 John 1:9: We will sin and need the cleansing that Jesus provided.

“Maturing as you follow Jesus is based on a partnership between God and you.” (Todd Arnett) What do we learn about the process and markers of discipleship?

Mark 4:20 NOTES TO LEADERS: Disciples will bear fruit. We do this together. Fruit bearing is a marker.

John 14:21; 15:5 NOTES TO LEADERS: Disciples obey out of love (not trying to earn). Therefore, obedience is a marker. We are called to abide in Jesus as He does with us (remain in, stick with Jesus). This too is a marker – disciples abide/remain in Jesus and bear fruit.

Galatians 5:22-24 NOTES TO LEADERS: Disciples “live by the Spirit” and bear the fruit of the Spirit. These are evidences of the Spirit at work in and through the disciple.

1 Peter 2:2-3 NOTES TO LEADERS: Disciples have a desire to grow in maturity. This is another marker.

How are God and others involved in the process of growing as a disciple?

Read John 14:12-16 (What does this say to you?)

NOTES TO LEADERS: While it is God who produces the growth, the disciple desires more of Him, loving God and growing in obedience out of love. This partnership is fueled by the enabling gifts God has given us: Jesus example, access to God through prayer, the Holy Spirit dwelling within, and a love relationship with one another.

John 15:15-16 (What does this say to you?)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus has called us into true fellowship with Him. As we abide in Him (i.e. through faith in Jesus, prayer, obedience, love for one another), we will bear fruit (make disciples). We have been called to bear fruit.

John 16:12-16 (What does this say to you?)

NOTES TO LEADERS: The Holy Spirit (God) is working in us (don't miss that this is plural) to teach and guide us into truth and thereby glorify Jesus.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How have you seen partnership between God and you?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is an open question about how people have observed God working to mature them. It will probably involve people God has used to help them grow (that is by His design), challenges in life that gave opportunity to trust in Him, provisions, etc.

When in your life do you remember significant growth as a disciple? What were the circumstances?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This can be helpful to hear the stories. From many stories through the years, I have observed these elements that have helped people grow in maturity: (1) being with others who want to grow, (2) learning from the Word of God, (3) being challenged to grow and go, (4) engaged in ministry and mission, and (5) time alone with God – especially desiring God Himself.

Is there an “obvious next step toward maturity for you?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is getting pretty real for some people. However, this level of transparency and trust is something I hope we can achieve.

**May the call of our Lord Jesus speak through you,
Steve**