

Life Group Lesson

“Secularism or Communion”

January 8, 2012

Below are verses and questions from the weekend message. The goal is not to read every verse and ask every question but to selectively use them to bring about discussion, study, interaction, and growth of your group. The goal is not to complete it like a check list but to use it as a tool to bring quality interaction and application from the weekend messages..

READ

Matthew 5:14-16 Message

ASK

1. The Message says we are to bring out the “God-colors in the world”. Are you revealing God’s colors (His attributes, the Kingdom’s purpose, the Gospel, etc.) or painting your own canvas?
 2. God is not a secret to be kept. Discuss different ways we keep God secret each day.
 3. Has your life gone public with the light of God? People know what a business offers by the sign it displays on the street – long before they get in the store. What sign are you displaying BEFORE people get in your life? Do they like what you’re selling? In other words, how’s business?
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READ

Definition of a church – “We are a radical society of people being formed in Christ to unveil the reality of His Kingdom in Jefferson County and every county that touches it.”

ASK

Let’s break down that statement:

1. Radical – God and His works are radical, every one of them. Does your life display His radical nature?
 2. Society of people – are you part of this local community or are you a lone ranger? Are you plugged in serving and growing like you should be?
 3. Formed in Christ – How is this going? Are you going through a one-on-one discipleship with someone? What do you do with the notes from the sermons on Monday and the rest of the week?
 4. Reality of His Kingdom – His Kingdom is established through you and I, the church. We are not saved to go to heaven (eventually, yes), but to bring a taste of heaven to earth. Does your slice of earth taste like heaven? Are you bringing the realities of the Kingdom to your world (relationships, workplace, home, family, etc.)?
 5. Jefferson County and every county – Do you love this county? Do you daily pray for your city and its people? Have you driven through the city and asked Jesus to heal it and establish the reality of His Kingdom here? Are you still trying to get out of the city God has placed you in?
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READ

“The Christian life can only be lived in the fellowship and participation of the church.”

ASK

1. Do you believe this statement?

2. Can you define fellowship? What does Biblical fellowship involve?
 3. What is true participation of the church look like? Remember, you are the church.
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READ

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

ASK

1. We have the power in us to overcome and demolish strongholds in our personal lives but also Jefferson County and every county that touches it. What stronghold in your life or in this city/county needs destroying? Spend time praying for it now. What other weapons besides prayer do you have to fight these battles with?
 2. We also take thought captive and make them obey Christ. What thoughts in your personal life or about this city/county do you need to take captive? Taking it captive means exposing it to the truth. What are the truths from Scripture about the lies/deception/manipulations that Satan is throwing your way?
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READ

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A Study on the Lord's supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. The Lord's Supper happened on the same night Jesus was betrayed and arrested. This is like a jewel against a filthy backdrop. In the midst of the world's evil, God establishes His good. In the midst of Satan's wickedness, God plants His holiness. In the midst of Satan's worst, the condemnation of the Son of God on the cross, God accomplished His best, the sacrifice for the redemption of the world through that cross.
2. 1 Corinthians was written before any of the Gospels and Paul's account of the Lord's Supper is most likely the first biblical record of it. It has direct quotations from Jesus not second hand from one of the Gospel writers. Paul most likely received it from the revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:10-12).
3. In the Passover meal, the cup represented the lamb's blood smeared on the doorposts. Now, it came to represent the blood of the Lamb of God, shed for salvation of the world. The old covenant meal signified deliverance from Egypt to Canaan. The new covenant meal, Jesus' body, was offered for deliverance for all men for all time for sin (Hebrews 9:28). When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (Last Supper, Eucharist), He was doing away with the Passover meal. We now eat the bread and drink the cup not to remember the Red Sea and the Exodus from Egypt but to remember the cross and the Savior.
4. Jesus' words specifically command us to practice the Lord's Supper. It is not an option for the believer. Not to partake of it is disobedience and sin. Rememberance is not an, "Oh yeah, I almost forgot," moment. It is going back in one's mind and purposefully recapturing the reality and significance of Jesus' sacrifice. It is reliving with Him His life, agony, suffering, and death as much as is humanly possible. We are not offering the sacrifice again but reliving it in rededication and devotion to passionately obey Jesus.

5. There is no frequency given but only “for as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup.” It should be done frequently in worship. Communion is a testimony to the world that we are not ashamed of the Lord or His atoning blood. It states we belong to Him and will obey Him. It reminds us He is returning and we celebrate through Communion “until He comes.” It is a celebration of His present life and His future glorious return.

6. When a believer comes to the Lord’s table, he:

- remembers Christ’s work on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:25)
- partakes of Christ’s spiritual presence in the fellowship of believers (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- worships in holiness (1 Corinthians 10:20-22)
- proclaims salvation in Christ (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)
- anticipates the return of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:26)
- anticipates the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 26:29)

7. With all this in view, how significant is the Lord’s Supper?