

WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER
28, 2008



JOURNEY GROUP QUESTIONS

OUR MISSION: *Leading people on a life-changing journey to follow Jesus Christ. [Matthew 11:28-30]*

JOURNEY OUR WEEKLY JOURNEY TAKES FOUR STEPS IN FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST:

Love God. [matthew 22:37] through WORSHIP **Grow** in God. [2 john 1:6] through GROUPS

Serve God. [1 peter 4:10] through TEAMS **Share** God. [acts 1:8] through OUTREACH

TITLE: OUT ON THE FRONT LINE

INTRODUCTION

Being on the front lines of God's Kingdom has nothing to do with power or authority or influence or affluence. You don't gain front line status by having any of those things. According to this King, serving on the front lines of this Kingdom (the most advanced, the most important position or activity or undertaking) involves ministering to the hungry, the thirsty, the cold, the poor, the sick, the lost, the widows, and the orphans. What kind of King says to His people that the greatest job in the Kingdom is taking care of the least of all people? Jesus is that kind of King and he's calling you and me to serve on the front lines

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when we talk about being on the front lines? Name some examples or things that come to your mind. Share any experiences you have from serving on the front lines.
2. **Read Matthew 25:31-46.** (Note: Jesus used sheep and goats to picture the division of believers and unbelievers. First century herders sometimes grazed sheep and goats in the same fields. Several herds could mingle in one pasture and yet be easily separated when the departing shepherds called for their own flocks. Sheep and goats were also separated when it came to time to shear the sheep.)
3. Who do you think the brothers are mentioned by Jesus in this passage? (Note: There has been much discussion about the identity of the "brothers". Some have said they are the Jews; others say they are all Christians; still others say they are suffering people everywhere. The point of this parable is not the *who*, but the *what* – the importance of serving where service is needed and we should love every person and serve anyone we can.)
4. Are good works necessary for eternal life? **Read Ephesians 2:8-1 and, Titus 3:4-5** for a clear understanding of what Scripture teaches on this subject. What do these passages teach us about what is required for eternal life? According to this parable, what is the real evidence of that salvation?
5. What does Jesus require of us as citizens of His kingdom in regards to caring for others' needs?
6. Are there rewards for those that serve according to these verses in Matthew 25? What are those rewards? Why would Jesus mention this?
7. How can we treat each and every person we encounter as if they were Jesus? Is this an easy task? Why or Why not?
8. Talk about some practical things you and your group members can do this week to live this out and make it a way of life as citizens of the kingdom.

Meditate and Memorize

Matthew 25:40 – "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

This page is for a personal devotional reading for the week.

We encourage you to get a good study Bible like the NIV study, Life application, or Quest Bible to help you as you study God's word.

Day One

Read 1 John 3:11-24 (make sure you read 1 John and not the gospel of John)

Think About It

Real love is an action, not a feeling. The greatest act of love is giving oneself for others.

What will you do?

How can you lay down your life? How clearly do your actions say you really love others? Are you as generous as you should be with your money, possessions, and time?

Changing your mind

1 John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

Day Two

Read Ezekiel 34

Think About It

God was showing that He would send the perfect Shepherd, Jesus, who would take care of every need of His people and set up a kingdom of perfect peace and justice.

What will you do?

In your heart, do you really love God? Examine yourself and motivations when it regards to your love for God and others today and ask God to help your love grow this week for Him and others.

Changing your mind

Ezekiel 34:11 "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them."

Day Three

Read James 2

Think About It

True faith transforms our conduct as well as our thoughts. If our lives remain unchanged, we don't truly believe the truths we claim to believe.

What will you do?

Will your faith affect your actions today? Think about how you will live this out today and this week.

Changing your mind

Philippians 2:3 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

Day Four

Read Proverbs 14:31, 17:5

Think About It

Providing for the poor is a command in the Bible and may require a change of your attitude.

What will you do?

What steps can you take to change your view and opinion for the poor? How can you develop an ongoing lifestyle that applies what we have been talking about this week? Sponsor a child through Compassion International, go on a mission trip, get involved with a local outreach ministry.

Changing your mind

Proverbs 14:31 "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

If you are using this daily study and have found it helpful, please email rodneyh@westridge.com.