

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Sermon: It's so Simple Yet so Hard

Sermon 28.03.09

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Small Group Study for Week of March 28 - April 3

The Big Idea:

To lose weight a person needs to watch what they eat and exercise. It's not rocket science – it's actually quite easy to understand. What's hard is actually doing it.

To have a living, growing relationship with God we need to spend time in His Word, the Bible, and pray. That's watching what we eat, spiritually speaking. We also need to show and tell other people what we got out of the first two; that's exercising spiritually. It is really that easy. The hard part, like physical exercise, is doing it.

Group Discusses:

1. What do you find hard about spending time with God, in His Word and in prayer? Why do you think that is?
2. Why is Scripture, Prayer and Sharing central to maintaining a relationship with God?

Group Reads John 15:1-8

3. What seems to be the key to bearing fruit in these verses?
4. Some branches are cut off and some branches are pruned. What's the difference?
5. What does it mean to bear much fruit?

Comment:

While the Bible, Prayer and Sharing are essential, we each have different ways of connecting with these practices. It seems we all have different spiritual temperaments.

- A. Activist:** One who is bold in his/her desire to see evil confronted and good win.
- B. Contemplatives:** Enjoys times of quiet and solitude, in basking in the warmth of God's love and presence.
- C. Enthusiast:** Loves God with a passion. Feel closest to God in singing and worshipping God both physically and emotionally.
- D. Intellectual:** Loves God through using their minds to ponder God and His truths.
- E. Naturalist:** Feels closest to God in nature, enjoying the wonders of His creation.
- F. Sensate:** Uses all their senses, sight, sound, smell, touch and taste to focus on God. Love beauty, incense, stained glass etc
- G. Traditionalists:** Loves God through ritual and symbols. Enjoys remembering our rich Christian heritage.
- H. Caregiver:** Loving God through serving others. They see practical needs and move toward them.

Questions:

6. Which spiritual temperament do you think best describes you? Why? Are you more than one?
7. The bible has to be at the start or end of all temperaments. How could you use your spiritual temperament to spend time in the Word (what am I learning about God, what does He want me to do), praying and sharing your walk with God with others?
8. What would you need to do in your life to be able to spend more time with God, remaining in Him daily?
9. What would you and your family need to do to be able to spend more time as a family, remaining in God daily?
10. At CCCC we are encouraging people to spend at least 15 minutes a day with God (for a start). Is that possible for us? How can this group help hold each other accountable to do this?

Conclusion to The Big Idea: We can use our spiritual temperaments to remain in Christ but they must be used to spend time in the Word, prayer and sharing. Using them for their own sake will not keep us remaining in Christ.

Question: What does God want me to do as a result of this study?