

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

iThink

Sermon 12.06.10

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Small Group Study for Week of June 12-18

The Big Idea

How and what we think matters!

Christians are to be thinkers, not mere reflectors of the thoughts of others.

Do We Really Need to Think For Ourselves?

Ask the question and then the group to read the following examples of the Bible teaching us to think for ourselves:

1. Moses and the Serpent
2. Paul's Council
3. The Council of Jesus

Moses and the Serpent - Group Read Numbers 21:4-9 and discuss it implications to the above question.

Comment: The background behind the serpent in the culture of these people was that the serpent was seen as a cult symbol. Not one of the Israelites would want to associate themselves with this Image. Yet God challenges the people to look past the thoughts of others and to think for themselves; they either had to trust God or trust the thoughts of the people around them.

Paul's Council - Group Read Acts 17:10-12 and discuss it implications to the above question.

The Council of Jesus - Group Read Matt 24:24 and discuss it implications to the above question.

Comment:

We see from these examples that there is a teaching throughout the Bible of the need to think for ourselves.(Old Testament - Serpent Story. New Testament - Paul & Jesus)

4. What do we do when someone we respect tells us that God has told them something and yet we sense that they may not be right?

The Doing -

So how do we put all of this into practice?

What are some practical methods of adopting the Big Idea?

- Discuss

How do we learn to be critical thinkers without becoming critical of others?

Discuss the following Suggestions:

- i. Follow the instructions of Paul - Check everything for ourselves
 - a. Bring it back to the concept of BOOK/CHAPTER/VERSE
 - b. Can what has been said be supported by the Bible?
- ii. Follow the example of Jesus
 - a. He prayed daily
 - b. He spent time with God daily
- iii. Remember that we are all on a journey - *Changing and Growing Lives with Jesus Christ*
 - a. The more you practice thinking for yourself the better you will get
 - b. God gives us the help of the Holy Spirit to do this (Titus 3:5b)

The Challenge

What are we going to put into our lives this week that will help us be iThinkers?

Challenge yourself, if you haven't already, to learn to think for yourself - to iThink.
Remember to bring everything back to the Bible - The Bible is the basis for all thoughts