

Week 5: The Good Book Small Group Notes

Opening Discussion: With the holidays soon approaching, begin planning now for a mission project by the small group. Also talk about the community trunk or treat and ask people to volunteer by bringing their vehicle. We are also in need of candy to provide to the vehicles.

Share 1-2 ground rules

Optional opener #1: Ask if someone wants to share how God spoke to them this week through His word and/or the devotionals. Celebrate what they shared.

Optional opener#2: Ask the group what they thought the point of each chapter they read was this week? (this will give you some insight into the thoughts of your group members) Celebrate what they shared.

Warnings

1. Keep track of time. If not careful, this could eat all your time,
2. What they share may give away some of what you prepared to teach

Biblical Texts: Matthew 7:24-29, Luke 6:46-49

Bible Truth: Followers of Jesus put His teaching into practice.

Setting the stage:

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He taught the people many ways to please God and the importance of obeying Him. This Bible story today is the end of what has been called Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount."

Matthew 7:24-29 and Luke 6:46-49 Jesus taught the people many things while they were gathered on a hillside. He finished by telling them this story:

Tell the story:

Jesus said that when you hear what I'm saying and obey My words, you are like the wise man who built a house. He worked hard to construct it right on top of rock. When the storms hit and the floodwaters rose and the gale force winds blew against it, the wise man's house stood firm because it was built on rock.

Now, when you hear My words and don't obey them, you are like the foolish man who built a house. He worked hard to construct it, but he built it on sand. When the storms hit and the floodwaters rose and the gale force winds blew against it, the foolish man's house collapsed. And it was obliterated!

Then Jesus finished His talk with the crowds and they were amazed at His teaching because He taught with authority and not like the other religious leaders.

Rebuild the Story:

Have everyone open their Bible to the story. Ask, "What was the first thing that happened in the story?" Then ask, "What happened next?" Do this until the entire story has been chronologically told.

Small Group Questions:

1. Why do you think many people came to hear the words of Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say about the person who comes to Him and hears His words and puts them into practice? Or those who don't put them into practice?
3. Discuss the meaning behind the foundations of both houses.
4. What do you think the rain and the floods and the winds represent?
5. Ask volunteers to explain times that were difficult for them. What role did obedience to Jesus play?
6. How has obedience to Jesus' teachings despite hard times impacted you?
7. How has disobedience to Jesus' teachings impacted you in hard times?
8. How do you think that Jesus is able to tell His true followers apart from those who refuse to follow or ignore His teaching?
9. What is the relationship that Jesus wants from His followers?
10. Do you have a good relationship with Jesus? If not, what should you begin to do?
11. As a group of disciples, how can you help one another to put into practice the words of Jesus?

Closing Prayer:

- Praise God for his ultimate act of humility in coming down from heaven to be with us.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to stir you to actions of humility as you interact with others.
- Pray for courage to sacrifice boldly for the sake of others.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to sensitize your heart to a sacrifice God wants you to make as you follow Jesus on an adventure of obedience.
- Ask God to help you grow as a person of passionate and sincere prayer.
- Confess your tendency to be judgmental, and ask God to humble your heart and grow your ability to forgive and extend grace.