

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Core Values • Week of September 16

Our sixth Core Value here at Christ Church is: T – “Training worshipers to be outward-focused by giving away 25% of our income beyond the local church and planting one new church or campus every three years.” Worshipers at Christ Church are trained to outward-focused in order to stay motivated, love and serve others, and live into God’s best for us. Our mission statement is: “To reach millions of unchurched persons by developing thousands of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.” It is important that we submit to this kind of training.

John Maxwell, one of the top leadership experts in the world, said it best: “When leaders stop learning they stop leading. Any organization, any team of leaders, has to have a high commitment to personal growth, as well as a high commitment to training their people.

Although the apostle Paul in his former life actually persecuted Christians (Saul of Tarsus) his life drastically changed after meeting the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-30). Paul’s new mission became all about telling people about Christ. As a result, Paul faced grave opposition nearly constantly. God gave Paul a desire to carry the Gospel to the Gentile world—throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and eventually Rome. But carrying the Good News to the Mediterranean world was no small task. Paul wisely surrounded himself with a team of like-minded brothers and sisters, and used every opportunity he could to build a bridge of communication with anyone who wanted to hear about the love of Christ.

Paul first visits the city of Corinth on his second missionary journey. After starting the church at Corinth with a few believers, Paul stays there for a year and a half, while training indigenous leadership (see Acts 18:1-18). Corinth was a strategic mission assignment for Paul. “One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, ‘Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t be silent. For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me’” (Acts 18:9-10). God has strategic mission assignments of each of us, as well. Will we say yes to the task and submit to the training?

Hear the words from the second letter Paul wrote to the Corinthian church—words of encouragement and instruction for us today:

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-11

Plain Truth – Vision leaks, so training people to focus outwardly motivates the best in us.

1. Re-read the Plain Truth. Discuss why training to ‘focus outwardly’ as a church is important. How can we discipline ourselves as individuals to be more outward-focused?

How does being more outward-focused (considering the needs of others) help bring out the best in us as individuals?

When God sent His Son to this earth, He could have demanded His rights and respect. But Jesus didn’t do that. In fact, He associated with the lowly, the sick, outcasts and sinners (Matthew 9:35-36). Jesus engaged with the Pharisees and Sadducees, but often because they were skeptical of Him, most of them opposed the Lord. In many ways, they had a good thing going, and Jesus’ radical mission of love interrupted their agenda and man-made traditions.

2. We all have selfish grids from which we function. And while the Lord “knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust” (Psalm 103:14), He has created us for a purpose bigger than ourselves. Discuss ways we can intentionally live beyond a self-serving and self-preserving mentality. What does Jesus say about this in Mark 8:34-38 and John 15:16-17?

Name a time you found joy in serving someone beyond ‘your four and no more.’ Write about it in the space below and perhaps share it with your Life Group:

How can your Life Group intentionally serve others more this fall?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Serving at the Halloween Festival at Gastonia Mission October 21
2. Sponsoring a trunk-or-treat car or truck on October 28th at your respective campus

*“Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words:
Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and
peace.*

*Then the God of love and peace will be with you.”
2 Corinthians 13:11*



CORE VALUES

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5-11

- C** - Children and Students matter to Jesus so Christ Church will provide excellence in Children and Student Ministry.
- H** - Healing happens best in need based ministries and small groups.
- R** - Reaching millions of unchurched persons for Christ is our mission statement because lost people matter to God.
- I** - Inspirational and Incarnational Worship that is relevant and authentic is at the heart of who we are as we help people encounter the Living God each week.
- S** - Small groups (life groups) are the best place for life transformation.
- T** - **Training worshipers to be outward focused by giving away 25% of our income beyond the local church and planting one new church or campus every three years.**

PLAIN TRUTH:

**Vision _____, so training people to focus _____
motivates the best ___ us.**

1. _____ yourself.
2. Remain _____.
3. Training produces _____ and brings out the
_____ us.

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 16: Isaiah 22:1-24:23, Galatians 2:17-3:9, Psalm 60:1-12, Proverbs 23:15-16
Sept. 17: Isaiah 25:1-28:13, Galatians 3:10-22, Psalm 61:1-8, Proverbs 23:17-18
Sept. 18: Isaiah 28:14-30:11, Galatians 3:23-4:31, Psalm 62:1-12, Prov. 23:19-21
Sept. 19: Isaiah 30:12-33:9, Galatians 5:1-12, Psalm 63:1-11, Proverbs 23:22
Sept. 20: Isaiah 33:10-36:22, Galatians 5:13-26, Psalm 64:1-10, Proverbs 23:23
Sept. 21: Isaiah 37:1-38:22, Galatians 6:1-18, Psalm 65:1-13, Proverbs 23:24
Sept. 22: Isaiah 39:1-41:16, Ephesians 1:1-23, Psalm 66:1-20, Prov. 23:25-28

September 15 & 16, 2018