

THE SON'S MISSION

Sermon Notes: Ephesians 1:7-10

Week 15 -- 2010

Welcome to the Spring Quarter of Growth Groups. The notes have been shortened a little to allow ample time to reconnect with your group, kick off your first meeting with some planning for the quarter, go over the covenant, and talk about the purpose of Growth Groups. Have a great quarter!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) There are a variety of ways people celebrate Easter. What was it like in your household growing up? Has it changed over the years? How did you celebrate it this year?
- 2) The key word in this past week's sermon was REDEMPTION. How do you think the average person on the street would respond if you asked them to explain this word?

How would you describe it in a sentence?

- 3) Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, confused you or challenged you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1) Ephesians 1:7 is a summary of the heart of the gospel. Read the verse: what do you think it says about the essence of the gospel? Is there anything that you think this verse has left out from the essence of the gospel? Any part that you struggle with?
- 2) The key word in last week's sermon was redemption. It means "the deliverance by the payment of a ransom". What do the following verses tell us about redemption? What/who do we need to be ransomed from?

1 Timothy 2:6

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 1:18-29

1 Corinthians 6:20

Romans 8:20-23

Mark 10:45

What aspect of redemption are you most amazed about tonight?

TAKING IT HOME

1) What aspect of your redemption do you want to understand in a greater way? Ask your group to pray with you about this.

THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

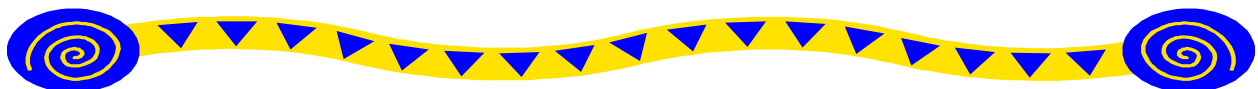
Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.



GUIDELINES & COVENANT

1. **Dates** We'll meet on nights for ___ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____.

2. **Time** We'll arrive between & and begin the meeting at . We'll spend approximately ___ minutes in singing (optional), minutes in study/discussion, and ___ minutes in prayer/sharing.

3. **Children** Group members are responsible to arrange child care for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!

4. **Study** Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

5. **Prayer** Praying for one another.

6. **Joining** a Growth Group requires a commitment *to attend each*. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events, but not much more! *This commitment is the key to a healthy group.* Most weeks require some preparation for group study and discussion.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will _____

7. **Desserts** _____

8. **Social & Service Project** _____

9. **Other** _____

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant.

(To be decided by each person on or before the third week. Keep this covenant for your records of your commitment.)

Signed _____

