

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

July 2014

## LEADER DEVELOPMENT- OVERCOMING THE PAST

### INTRODUCTION

Who do you know whose life was dramatically changed by God's grace & mercy?

### OBSERVATION

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20

*Note: Paul lists the three motivating forces in his life: love, faith, and grace. His love for Christ and for lost sinners constrained him to labor (2 Cor. 5:14); his faith in Christ empowered him (Eph. 1:19); and the grace of God worked in his life, enabling him to serve God (Heb. 12:28).<sup>1</sup>*

1. Why does Paul thank God in verse 12? What does this indicate about his perspective?
2. Why is Paul the ideal person for his God-given mission? 2 Cor 4:7-12

*Note: God does not choose a person who is worthy, but by the act of choosing him He makes him worthy. Augustine*

3. Why are you the ideal person for serving God in your current assignment?
4. Why is it important that, like Paul, we remember 'where we came from' as we grow spiritually?
5. Why is this especially important for leaders?
6. How do we prevent our past from thwarting our spiritual growth? Phil 3:12-14
7. What was Paul's clear instruction to Timothy in verses 18-19?
8. How does one go about maintaining a clear conscience? 19
9. How can we keep from shipwrecking our faith?
10. How can we help others whose faith is faltering? Pr 27:17; Eph 4:14-16
11. Why would Paul 'hand over' Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan? What can leaders learn from Paul's example? v. 20

*Note: Hymenaeus is a heretic mentioned by name twice (v. 20 above and 2 Timothy 2:17) -- named in connection with Alexander (the coppersmith who did Paul harm). Paul denounced them as blasphemers. Scripture does not fully describe the heresy, but apparently Hymenaeus denied the physical resurrection of the born again as taught by Christ (John 5:25-29) and Paul (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). He claimed, instead, that the believer's "resurrection" only happens in a spiritual sense, occurring at the moment one is born again. This heresy was apparently taught by the Nicolaitanes.*

### APPLICATION

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you describe your current faith journey (1: sinking like the Titanic; 10: clear skies and smooth sailing ahead). Ask a close friend for a second opinion.
- If you're 'taking on water', what steps will you take this week to 'right the ship'?

*I'm so grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work. He went out on a limb, you know, in trusting me with this ministry. The only credentials I brought to it were invective and witch hunts and arrogance. But I was treated mercifully because I didn't know what I was doing—didn't know Who I was doing it against! Grace mixed with faith and love poured over me and into me. And all because of Jesus. Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever.*

*1 Timothy 1:12-16 (The Message)*

<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 621). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.